United Methodist Church.

Berkeley Road, Bishopston.

Peeps into the Past

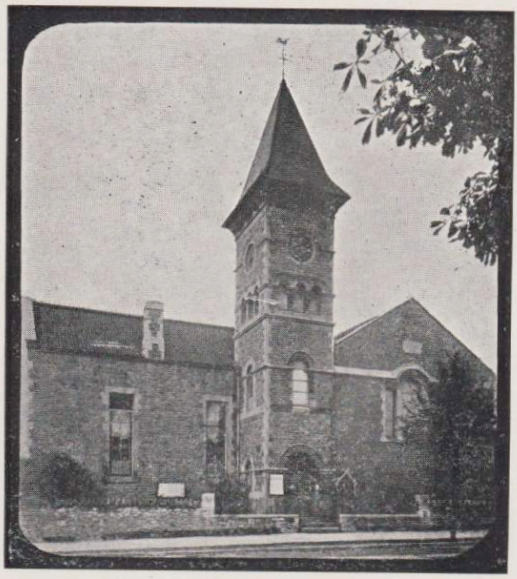
SUBSCRIBERS' EDITION.

A

JUBILEE

SOUVENIR

OF LOCAL METHODISM.



THE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, BISHOPSTON,

OPENED 1865.

ENLARGED AND TOWER ERECTED 1877.

JUBILEE, SEPTEMBER 28th, 1915.

Peeps into the Past

History

OF THE

United Methodist Church,

Berkeley Road,

Bishopston.

By JAS. BOWLAND.

WITH THIRTY-SIX ILLUSTRATIONS.

BRISTOL:

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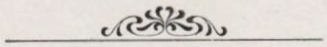


TO THE MEMORY

OF

MANY OF THE LOYAL HEARTS

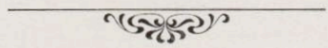
WHOSE SERVICE IS HEREIN RECORDED

AND

TO ALL WHO LOVE THE CHURCH

THIS HISTORY

IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.



"Light Thou our candle while we read,
And keep our hearts from going blind,
Enlarge our vision to behold
The wonders THOU hast wrought of old."

—Henry Van Dyke.

PREFACE.

THE United Methodist Church, Bishopston, now attains its year of Jubilee. The Jubilee of a Church presents an opportune and fitting occasion for the permanent record of its story. Interesting, encouraging, helpful such a volume may become by a relation of its struggles, a review of its triumphs through faithful service during fifty years of its progressive life. Yet such a review of the United Methodist Church, Bishopston, would be incomplete. It demands more. In a very important sense, 1865 was not the year of the beginning of this Church. A previous Church—the parent Church—merits, and has been allowed a due regard in the following pages. Its story touches and enters into historic events of Methodism; it affords an instructive resumé of times and struggles it is well to remember; it completes and enlightens the whole survey of the Church now under consideration.

For these sufficient reasons have I essayed more than a Jubilee record demands, fully conscious of the need of an abler pen to relate with efficiency and charm, the Church's accomplishments during so many years. I heartily thank the authors of the New History of Methodism, the *Daily Press*, and all the friends who have assisted me, by verbal information, by the loan of manuscript, etc. Such kindness has enabled me to gather Peeps into the Past History of the Church and local Methodism, under the title of a Jubilee Souvenir, which I hope may interest and encourage its readers, and merit of them a modest degree of appreciation.

> "Peruse with heed, then friendlie judge,
> And blaming rashe refraine;
> So maist thou reade unto thy goode
> And shall requite my paine."—*Whitney's Emblems.*

Sept. 28th, 1915. JAS. BOWLAND.

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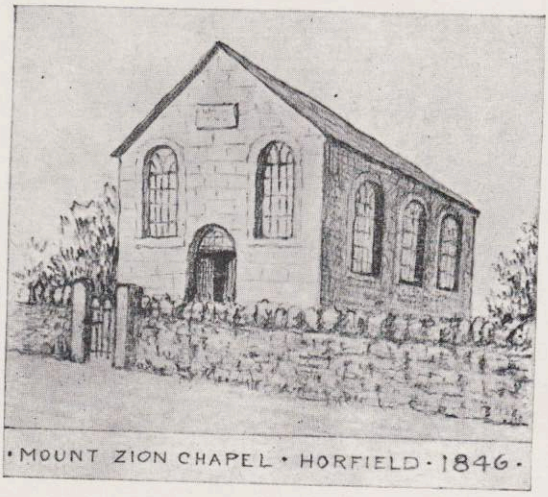


Peeps into the Past of Local Methodism.

SECTION I. 1846-1857.

EARLY METHODISM—MOUNT ZION CHAPEL—THE REFORM MOVEMENT — PREACHERS' PLAN 1851 — THE ASSEMBLY AT ROCHDALE AND ITS RESULT—THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCH IN HORFIELD.

Early Methodism in Horfield, THE beginnings of Methodism here, may not be assigned by any specific date, but there is ample evidence, of its presence and progress, twenty years or more before any portion of this locality became known as Bishopston.

In a Horfield cottage Methodists gathered first to pray, and later, as the following extracts show, to manifest sacrifice and triumph in the erection of a suitable place of worship.

> "To meet as far as possible the religious requirements of the destitute residents in this village, a poor man allowed a room, in his humble cottage, to be used for prayer and preaching."
>
> "In this primitive sanctuary for several years, the congregation and society were straitened . . . . . and felt the need of a Chapel."

"The Class Leader, Mr. Thompson urged building, but *from the peculiar circumstances of the Bristol Wesleyan Circuits*, the idea was relinquished."

"A plot of ground was offered later by Mr. Russell,* and accepted."

"A Committee was formed . . . . . money and materials collected . . . . a neat and commodious Chapel to seat 120 persons . . . . . erected FREE FROM DEBT."

In the list of Subscribers are the names of Samuel Budgett, Robert Charlton, Mark Whitwill and William Oatway, Senior. Henry Hodges and his family gave nearly £30, and John Broadbeer presented "a beautiful copy of the Sacred Volume for the Pulpit." Total outlay £280.

The Report from which the above statements have been copied bears the endorsement of HENRY HODGES, *Treasurer*, and HENRY CURNOCK, *Secretary*.

Its title page reads:—

REPORT

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE OF

MOUNT ZION,

WESLEYAN CHAPEL,

HORFIELD, near BRISTOL,

WHICH WAS OPENED FOR DIVINE WORSHIP,

APRIL 29th, 1846.

It closes:—

"It yet remains . . . . . to entreat the assistance of the wealthy, until provision has been made for a DAY AND SABBATH SCHOOL, in which poor children of this village may be taught the knowledge that will render them useful in this world and prepare them for happiness in the next."

Astonishing as it may be, these progressive sentiments became the sole hindrance to the acquisition of more land on which to realise them, and eventually the cause of the erection of another chapel in 1865.

*A name conserved locally in "Russell's fields."

Mount Zion Chapel, standing slightly to the south of the present Baptist Chapel, surrounded by garden ground, for nineteen years served the purpose of its erection—was converted into cottages, which were ultimately pulled down to make room for villa residences.

Wesleyan Reform in Horfield, Look now at the phrase in italics in the extracts. Is it not suggestive of discord? Enough to indicate growing discontent within the local Churches, precursory of agitation, and this none other than the Wesleyan Reform Agitation, which arose from "a determination that the local centres should possess a large share of self government, and by freely chosen representatives participate in the control of the Connexion." —*New History Methodism Vol. I pp 514.*

Alas the said "*peculiar circumstances*" were neither relieved nor overcome. They were endured until 1849, when throughout the entire denomination secessions and dismemberments became painfully numerous. The membership of Old King Street Wesleyan Methodist Society, Bristol, sank from 832 to 388; that of Old Market Street from 703 to 125, and in many other places a like proportion of congregations and Sunday Scholars severed their religious connections and gave allegiance to the Reformers.

Throughout England many left their beloved Church with sincere regret, anticipating a renewed allegiance under better conditions, which surely could not be long delayed or denied. In the hope of reconciliation appointed delegates, in charge of petitions signed by 50,000 members, proceeded to London to present them to Conference. There the spirit of Dr. Bunting's dictum "disloyalty to Methodism is disloyalty to Christ" again prevailed, and the great Reform Petition of 1850 was rejected. Afterwards thousands were dismembered by a stroke of the pen through their names in the Class Books, and these also avowedly augmented the Reform Movement. Even the Horfield Society joined the forces whose march to fuller liberties was now irresistible, and attached themselves and their Chapel to the Wesleyan Reformers of Bristol.

Reform Preachers' Plan 1851.

UNDENIABLE evidence of this secession has been gathered from the Preachers' Plan of the year 1851.

Its title reads:—"PLAN FOR THE WESLEYAN METHODIST PREACHERS IN THE BRISTOL AND KINGSWOOD CIRCUITS." It comprises 54 Churches and 3 preaching places with a list of 71 Local Preachers and 9 on trial. Broadmead heads the list and Horfield is number 12 thereon. There are no ministers names and King Street Wesleyan Chapel is not mentioned. Horfield is shown with Sunday services 10.30 and 6—Prayer Meetings on Tuesdays and a preaching service monthly at 7. The preachers appointed bear names familiar, Curnock, Finch, Mitchiner, Pillinger, while Butler of Crew's Hole, Lewton of Winterbourne, and Godfrey of Soundwell, awaken associations of days long ago.

The retention of the title WESLEYAN Methodists will have been noticed—reluctant severance underlies it showing a sincere attachment of the Reformers for the revered name. Happily most of Wesley's Rules were retained by them, and that of sending Church returns to the Circuit Quarterly Meeting has provided a further evidence of the secession and transferred allegiance of the Horfield Society. In the records of the Bristol Reform Committee preserved at Milk Street, dated July, 1852, it is reported:—Horfield 2 on Trial, 13 Members of Society, £1 6s. 0d. Class Money.

Thus far "Wesleyan," in Horfield is superseded in designation, by Wesleyan Reform. Later events will show how, through its representative, the newly-named Society at Mount Zion, became intensely concerned in the doings and deliberations of the Bristol Reform Committee, contributed to its funds, accepted its assistance, and thus shared in its honours and labours of renown.

The Reformers' Code of Rules, 1853.

HORFIELD'S representative, Henry Curnock, led in prayer, at the Annual Meeting of the Bristol Reform Society assembled in Broadmead Rooms, when it was resolved that a Committee be formed to draw up a Code of Rules, and that the Committee

be elected by the Societies in proportion to the number of members.—"Broadmead Rooms with Horfield to elect 8."

This Committee met and agreed upon Rules. These were adopted at a meeting held in Thomas Street Chapel, where Henry Curnock was again in prominence, associated with one John Rider representing Thomas Street Church, (of whom our esteemed Church Steward, Mr. H. J. Rider may feel justly proud).

The code contains clauses of a very definite order.

Rule 2. "That each Church shall manage all its own local affairs," illustrates their spirit and character.

Rule 9. Divides the Circuit into 10 Sections, comprising 34 Churches.

Section No. I. Milk Street and Horfield.*

The title page of the code is quaint,—

"**Rules of the People called Methodists** in the Bristol Circuit in connection with the Wesleyan Reform Movement, as adopted at the Special Circuit Quarterly Meeting of Members, held August 8th, 1853."

Collections at Horfield, 1854. One minor notice of Horfield is significant though not this time of *destitute* inhabitants. The Rev. T. Rowlands was appointed to preach here in aid of the Reform Union Funds. Another says, "a collection for the widows and orphans of our brave fellow country-men who have fallen in the present calamitous war,—*i.e.* the Crimean War."

This year was one of increased activities in the Reform Churches locally. Hebron Chapel, Bedminster, was opened, but the conspicuous event bearing a real though indirect influence upon Horfield was the advent of the Rev. J. Garside. The Broadmead Rooms and 'Wesley's New Room in the Horsefair,' the scenes of the labours of the Rev. Samuel Dunn and the Rev. James Everett, were forsaken, and the members worshipping there formed the Milk Street Church, opened in February. The Rev. J. Garside was its first minister and thus Horfield came under more immediate pastoral supervision.

*Horfield linked to Milk St. before Berkeley Road Ch. was opened 1865.

About this time the question of Union with the Wesleyan Association was being discussed in various parts of the country. Bristol Reformers supported it.

Bristol Reformers and the Wesleyan Association, 1855.

NOTICES of an urgent character were sent to all the Societies in the Circuit, Horfield included. In reply thereto, about 500 members assembled in Milk Street Chapel. The Basis of Union with the Wesleyan Association was discussed, approved and cordially adopted. This Association had been formed in 1835, and exercised—the right of members to regulate the affairs of their Church—the admission of the people to a share of power in the government of the Church. These were cherished objectives of the Reformers, and, as will be seen, drew the two religious bodies into closer relationship until they united under one name and constitution.

The Assembly at Rochdale, 1857.

Two representatives of the Bristol Circuit, H. F. Laws and W. T. Olive, attended the historic Assembly at Rochdale, and their report to a special circuit meeting held in Milk Street Chapel remains interesting:—"the brethren of the Association gave the earliest and most practical proof of their desire to honour their brethren the Reformers" . . . "the entire proceedings were marked by oneness of purpose, differences of opinion there were, but not such as to interfere with brotherly love." . . . . . "The amalgamation of the Association and the Reformers," "the future designation of the two bodies to be the United Methodist Free Church," were resolutions carried unanimously. Honours were divided in the election of the Rev. James Everett (*reform*) as President, and the Rev. Robert Eckett (*assoc.*) as Connexional Secretary.

The First United Methodist Free Church in Horfield, 1857.

THUS the Society of Mount Zion Chapel received another new name. As one of the United Methodist Free Churches in the Bristol Circuit, its services for the social and

moral uplifting of the people, and, according to its power, works of religion and charity were continued with renewed vigour, and through varying conditions and change of location, its progress with developements were well maintained until in 1907, its designation was again changed to that of the United Methodist Church. Onward to September, 1915, it has continued, as will be shown, adding a brighter lustre to its fair renown.

¶ At this time 1857, there was neither a church of Bishopston, nor a locality of that name, the one was erected in 1858, and and the other formed mainly out of Horfield and Stapleton in 1862. Within the new boundary of the adopted place-name Bishopston, Horfield Chapel was included and by the retention of the original prefix arose the anomaly Horfield Chapel—in Bishopston!—This retention has been upheld in the following pages only to the closing of Mount Zion Chapel. With the opening of the Berkeley Road Chapel, except where extracts have been given—"Bishopston" has been adhered to.

SECTION II. 1857-1865.

AN OMINOUS COMMUNICATION—A TRIAL SERMON—POSSESSION LOST—SEARCH FOR LAND—A NEW CHAPEL—CLASS TICKETS.

For nearly three years the Horfield Society "kept the noiseless tenor of its way," while Henry Curnock kept its welfare in lively view, obtaining occasional service of the Circuit Ministers, Revs. J. Garside, G. Hudson, J. N. G. Faull. Ere the third year closed, placid events were violently disturbed; the shock of irretrievable loss with consequent change was apportioned unto the Church to endure.

An Ominous Communication, 1860. It was a sad meeting assembled in Mount Zion Chapel, on that auspicious autumnal evening, of 1860. A few of the faithful were gathered together to read, and to contemplate again the ominous communication which conveyed an austere fact, "the Chapel was no longer their beloved possession." Being held upon a life lease, it had become legally the property of another. "Cast down," they were, "but not destroyed." Expectations of renewal gave hope to the petition presented some days later. Abbreviated it reads:—

> "We the undersigned members in Church fellowship, and Sunday School Teachers, on behalf of the Congregation and Friends in connection with Mount Zion Methodist Free Church, Horfield, ... beg respectfully to present this memorial . . . asking that we may be allowed the Chapel for the worship of God, as in times past. Very many of us, and our families, have great reason to thank God for its

erection, having been brought to a knowledge of Christ within its walls. . . . . Our associations therefore, and sympathies are bound up with the place, and we love to labour there for the good of others. . . . . It would be a great calamity for it to pass into other hands."

"We pray, earnestly hope, and believe that God will incline your heart to a favourable consideration of our request, Yours respectfully,

HENRY CURNOCK. G. W. TUCKEY.
HENRY HODGES. ABRAHAM COOKE, & 19 others."

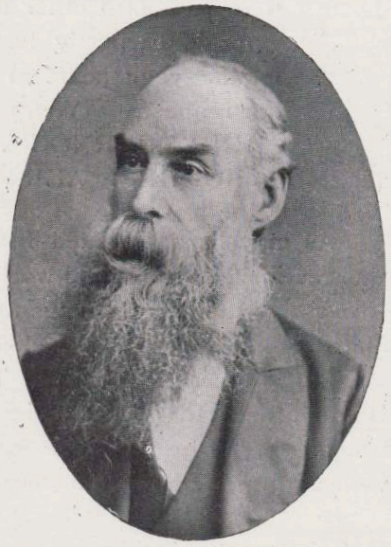
As may be anticipated from such an appeal, the Chapel was retained, and the good work continued with God's blessing. Progressive and bright times followed, the Church and School increasing in numbers. Week-day evening Service and Prayer Meetings were well sustained. The Revs. C. R. Ramshaw, T. M. Booth, exercised pastoral visitation of such character, they became highly regarded in the esteem of the Church, and with affection among the poor of the vicinity.

A Trial Sermon, 1863. An incident must be related here, according to Plan a Trial Sermon was preached on a Sunday morning by James Jones of Winterbourne. It received full commendation. The young man was 'passed' as an accredited local preacher. A little time afterwards, he was recommended as a candidate for the Connexional Ministry and entered therein. He laboured with success in many circuits and ultimately returned as minister of the Bishopston Society.

Alternating light and darkness is a Divine order of beneficence to worlds, men, and Churches. The bright period of the Horfield Society passed again, leaving once more the storm clouds dark with threatening peril to the Church and congregation. The possession of the Chapel Buildings was legally lost, yet retained as agreed two years ago, at a nominal rent of £12 per year. Now prospective building developements pointed to the removal of the Chapel entirely. In fact it was already offered for sale.

". . . . refusing an offer . . . . to shut Methodists out . . . . . rather not disturb . . . . room for all . . . . purchase or give it up, ..." are extracts from communications to Henry Curnock, which vividly show how precarious the condition of tenure had become.

In further negotiations the gentleman owner dealt generously with the Methodists, by offering more land contiguous to the Chapel at the price of £300. This offer was heartily accepted by the management Committee at Horfield, among whom were W. Coates, J. Clatworthy, H. Curnock and the Rev. T. Hacking, Circuit Minister.



JOHN CLATWORTHY.

The Search for Land. "THE best laid schemes of men gang aft agley." Sometimes things are not what they seem. Further knowledge of the conditions of Sale, peremptorily stopped purchase, and changed the direction of search for land. "No school room, no school house, to be built upon this land" was naturally repudiated. A Day School had been a cherished ideal since 1846, and this forbidding clause forced these sturdy Free Methodists to seek elsewhere, and find the appropriate site lay not beyond the summit of Pig-stye Hill, but at its foot adjoining a new road called Berkeley, as the following extract from the *Daily Press*, Bristol, shows:—

> "After much search, an excellent piece of ground in one of the best parts of the village, below the church on the opposite side of the road was offered by Mr. William Hatton 'at the price which it had cost him.'"

A New Chapel.

THIS offer was gratefully accepted and busy days of work without wages came and passed with 'something attempted,' 'something done.' Two 'braves' delivered notice, "shall quit and deliver up possession of the Chapel September next, 1865." Others bent on building journeyed to the Horfield Pleasure Grounds, where H.M. Prison now stands, to view, and to arrange for the delivery of stone at 2/9 per yard. Still others visited Kingswood and 'Steeple Hill' to measure chapels as patterns. The Rev. J. Garside met the Building Committee at Milk Street—a circular was issued stating the reasons for abandoning the old, and building a new Chapel.

Plans were submitted and adopted, showing "Chapel 30 x 51 in the clear, 18 feet of which be appropriated by schoolroom and vestries. Chapel to have 4 windows each side—and a treble window at the front over the entrance."

Perhaps the design and meaurements were not quite 'in the clear' to all concerned, but this accompanying injunction was joyfully accepted being easily understood. "Each write and do what he could in getting money and materials."

A door step, two loads of stone, gas-pipe and lead for cistern, six trees and a scraper, register grate, fire irons and fender, two doors, vestry blinds, ornamental and plain glass, some paint and varnish, pulpit cloth and cushion, hymn book and register, looking glass for vestry (still there), oak lintels, two mats, red and green baize, laying of the floor, hauling freestone, are among the contributions acknowledged by the Building Committee in addition to subscriptions amounting to £325.

Among the Subscribers are found the names, W. Coates, £20, J. Clatworthy, H. Curnock, R. Charlton, Handel Cossham, Captain D. Harrison, W. Hatton, H. P. Moon, J. Padfield, John Rider,* W. and S. W. Tuckey, John Smith,* H. O. Wills, N. Watts and Edwin Clark.

Stone-laying and opening collections £43.

The total outlay amounted to £663.

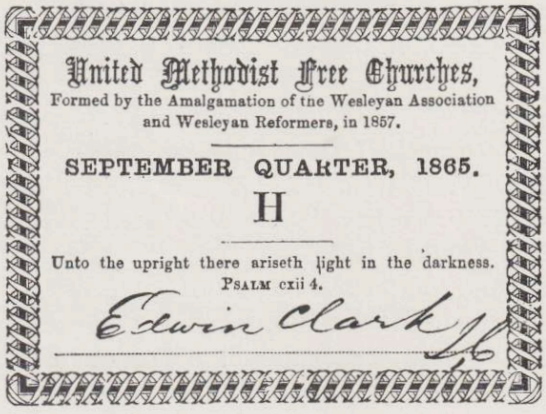
United Methodists have encountered, overcome difficulties, and built hundreds of places for Divine Worship, in

*John Rider and John Smith were members of the Bristol Reform Committee, in 1852.

some such like manner throughout our homeland. It is good to know something of their sacrifice for Christ's sake, and of the burden bearing for the extension of the Kingdom of God, that we may earnestly endeavour to hand down unsullied, if not augmented, the goodly heritage we enjoy through their devotion and labour.

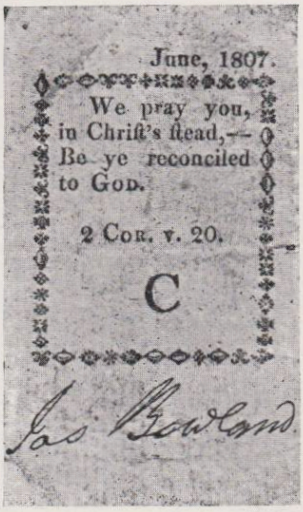
Class Meetings. Class Tickets.

"PERHAPS, the institution most characteristic of Methodism is the Class Meeting. It may not be regarded as a divine institution nor essential, but a prudent organization which has done much to conserve the doctrine and spirit of Methodism."—If not the inception, the general adoption of Class Meetings may be said to have arisen out of a suggestion of one, Captain Foy, at a meeting in Bristol, at which John Wesley was present. "Local Societies were divided into Classes of 12 persons or more, each having its leader, who received the contributions of its members (1d. per week) and served as a sub-pastor. Once a quarter, the leader gave a Ticket to each approved member. *It* was a valued token. Some members treasured their tickets as signs of unbroken fellowship until the close of life, and dying asked that they might be interred with them."—*See New History of Methodism, Vol. I.*


United Methodist Free Churches,
Formed by the Amalgamation of the Wesleyan Association and Wesleyan Reformers, in 1857.
SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1865.
H
Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness.
PSALM cxii 4.
Edwin Clark

The First CLASS TICKET issued at Methodist Free Church, Bishopston.

Our esteemed friend Mr. A. Casley, a few years ago, bought a grandfather clock (shown below), discovered therein 325 Class Tickets, showing a 40 years' membership of Mary Lutley and her husband.



The Author has nearly 100 Class Tickets, belonging to his grand-father and mother, his father and mother—found in an oak bureau, of them 24 are more than a centry old.

The last Circuit Quarterly returns from Mount Zion Horfield—September, 1865:—

1 on Trial—26 Members of Society—1/5/0 Class Money.

SECTION III.

APRIL—SEPTEMBER, 1865.

FOUNDATION STONE-LAYING—OPENING OF THE UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCH BISHOPSTON—DESCRIPTIONS AND EXTRACTS—Rev. WILLIAM GRIFFITH.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE,

of the United Methodist Free Church, at Bishopston,

on the afternoon of Good Friday, April 14th, 1865,

by HENRY OVERTON WILLS, Esq., J.P.

A great number of people assembled to witness the ceremony, regardless of the rain which fell copiously as the proceedings began. An appropriate hymn having been given out by the Rev. T. M. Booth and sung by the assembly, the Rev. G. Dowson offered a suitable prayer, invoking the blessing of Almighty God upon the work they had commenced. Mr. Henry Curnock read a document to be placed under the stone, in a bottle. The stone was well and truly laid. Afterwards other gentlemen delivered addresses and hymns were heartily sung. The children of the Sunday School, who were in attendance having processioned from Mount Zion Chapel, were presented with a bun each. A Tea Meeting was held in the evening in connection with this interesting ceremony at Mount Zion.

The Address at Stone-laying 1865.

H. O. Wills, Esq., in laying the stone said:—"It gave him great pleasure to comply with the kind request which had been

sent to him, to lay the Corner Stone of that House of God, he rejoiced to know the doctrines which were to be preached in that church were sound and scriptural, and calculated to produce the conversion of sinners to God. He trusted that nothing but truth would be taught there, and that repentance toward God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ would be a topic in every sermon, and the foundation of every member's belief. They should rejoice in the success of all denominations who sought the conversion of souls, and the extension of Christ's Kingdom. In conclusion he prayed that the Christian Church associated with this building might be richly blessed with every spiritual and temporal blessing."—from report *Daily Press.*

Extracts from the Document read by Henry Curnock.

"Dedicated to the Triune Jehovah."

"The Corner Stone of this Chapel was laid on Good Friday, April 14th, 1865, by Henry Overton Wills, Esq., J.P., in the twenty-ninth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, for the use of the Church and Congregation meeting at Mount Zion Chapel, at the top of Horfield Hill, which was lost to its members by the falling in of the lease, and the proprietor refusing to sell without such stipulations as would have proved injurious to its welfare."

"This Church stands in connection with the United Methodist Free Churches of Bristol, numbering 1638 members, 57 Travelling and Local Preachers, 377 Sunday School Teachers with 2,909 Scholars."

There follows a numerical statement of members, scholars, teachers and preachers throughout the Connexion. Home and Foreign Missions are referred to, and a concise epitome being given of the Doctrines and Principles of the United Methodist Free Church, the document concludes:—

"The Architectural Design and supervision of the

(Fac-similie of Handbill announcing Opening Services).

UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCHES.

BRISTOL, SEPTEMBER, 1865.

DEAR SIR,

We beg most respectfully to direct your attention to the OPENING SERVICES of the NEW CHAPEL, at the corner of BERKELEY ROAD, HORFIELD, the stone of which was laid April 14th, by H. O. WILLS, Esq.

The Building is now complete, and we hope to have your kind sympathy and support on the occasion of the Opening.

SERMONS WILL (D.V.) BE PREACHED

AS FOLLOWS :—

ON THURSDAY, September 28th, 1865,

BY THE REV. WILLIAM GRIFFITH, OF DERBY,

In the Morning at Eleven, and in the Evening at Seven o'Clock.

On SUNDAY, October 1st,

In the MORNING, at Half-past Ten, by the Rev. JOSEPH GARSIDE ;
In the AFTERNOON, at Half-past Two, by the Rev. J. MORRIS, of Brunswick Chapel ;
In the EVENING, at Six, by the Rev. WM. BOYDEN.

On SUNDAY, October 8th,

In the MORNING, at Half-past Ten, by the Rev. JAMES WARD ;
In the AFTERNOON, at Half-past Two, by the Rev. J. PENNY, of Buckingham Chapel ;
In the EVENING, at Six, by the Rev. J. G. DOWSON.

☞ *COLLECTIONS WILL BE MADE TOWARDS THE BUILDING FUND.*

On MONDAY, October 9th,

A PUBLIC TEA-MEETING

Will be held, at Half-past Five o'clock.

The Chair will be taken by **H. O. WILLS, Esq., J.P.**

The Meeting will be addressed by the Revds. S. HEBDITCH, J. GARSIDE, J. WARD, W. BOYDEN, and other Ministers and Gentlemen.

Tickets for the Tea may be had of Mr. CURNOCK, 1, Cheltenham Road ; of Mr. W HATTON, Union Street ; and the Chapel-Keepers of Milk Street and Horfield.

We are, SIR,

Yours very truly,

WM. COATES, *Chairman.*

H. CURNOCK, } *Secretaries.*
J. HATTON, }

W. JONES, Printer, Horfield.

building are by William Coates, Esq., the Treasurer; the Builders—Messrs. J. Baker and Son; the Trustees—Wiliam Coates, Edwin Clark,* Henry Curnock, John Harris, William Hatton, Joseph Hatton, Thomas East, Richard Millar, Thomas Prewett, John B. Warren; Superintendent of the Sunday School—John Clatworthy; Chapel Steward—William Dance; Society Steward—John Burt; Poor's Steward—Edwin Clark; in charge of the premises—John Headington; Organist—James W. Padfield*; Leader of Choir—William C. Oatway*; Circuit Ministers—James Ward, Joseph Garside, Thomas Booth and C. J. Ramshaw; Circuit Stewards—W. Tuckey, E. W. Peters."

Opening Day Thursday, September 28th, 1865.

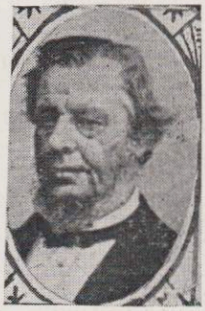
FROM April to September, to the people of Mount Zion Chapel were days of anticipation and interest, as stone by stone the sacred edifice rose to view. Pardonable pride, buoyant hope mingled with benediction and prayer when the new Chapel with its "treble window front" appeared roof covered as specified, with 'red rib tiles,' and the scaffolding all taken away. Nearer and nearer drew the auspicious Opening Day. It came a glad and victorious day, a day of rejoicing, thanksgiving and dedication; it came with the bright shining of the sun without, and the brighter Son of Righteousness abiding within the hearts of the devoted lovers and builders of this "House of the Lord."

John Headington the caretaker had been round early "to see to things" and now stood on the gate step furtively glancing in the direction of the forsaken Chapel as if unreconciled to its loss, yet alert and bright in cheery welcomes to the fast gathering friends and strangers.

At the entrance, a vestibule with right and left hand doorways admitted the visitor into a neat and comfortable Chapel capable of seating about 250 persons. The pews were divided by two aisles. At the opposite end could be seen a becoming pulpit with steps. Above the pulpit on the west wall were three panels, on which the Commandments and the

*Still living.

Lord's Prayer were written, circumscribed with "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men" on a coloured tape-moulding in relief. The doorway on the left of the pulpit, placed there prospectively gave entrance only to a useful cupboard. That on the right admitted to the vestry. The harmonium from Mount Zion, stood behind the vestibule at entrance, on a raised platform erected to accommodate the Choir.



Rev. W. GRIFFITH.

Long before the morning service commenced the church was filled, for 'the preacher had come,' so it was said, arriving on the previous day from Derby.

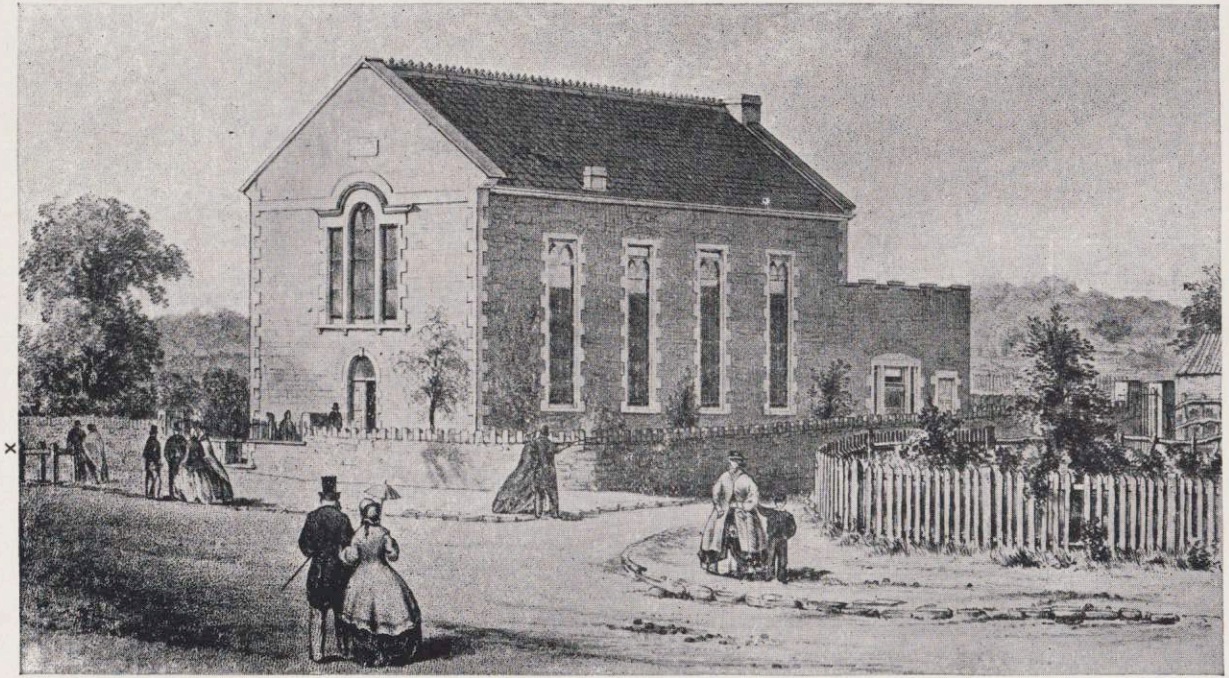
At the evening service also, there was a crowded congregation of expectant and attentive worshippers, including many from the City of Bristol, and not a few from Kingswood and the extreme ends of the Circuit.

Both Sermons, it is reported, were soul stirring deliverances—and the singing! such singing of Methodist tunes in Methodist fashion 'with heart and soul and voice,' was never before excelled in fervour and melody.

This truly was a great day to many outside Bishopston who cherished in remembrance the Rev. Samuel Dunn and the Rev. James Everett,—a day that brought the one opportunity of a life-time, to see and hear none other than the courageous Rev. William Griffith—the third of the illustrious trio, who were expelled by the Wesleyan Conference at Manchester in 1849. Expulsion failed—they became honoured in the esteem of a God-fearing people—champions of religious liberties and connexional reforms, to whom Methodists are indebted all the world over.

Extract of Report read at the Tea Meeting.

"Your Committee acknowledge with devout gratitude to God His providence in opening the way, and making plain the paths before His servants, enabling them to build this House



UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCH, BISHOPSTON, 1865.

X A WELL OF WATER
FOR PUBLIC USE.

where the glorious Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, with its full, free, and present salvation may be proclaimed, and pray that the great Head of the Church may crown their efforts by making it the birth place of thousands of souls. Your Committee do not consider the work completed until they have erected a commodious Schoolroom." . . . . .

WILLIAM COATES, *Chairman.*
HENRY CURNOCK, *Secretary.*

MISS. H HANKS.
A LOYAL AND DEVOTED WORKER.

MISS M. HARRISON.
A KIND AND GENEROUS GIVER.

CONNECTED with our Church longer in years than any other living member. One attended Mount Zion Sunday School, the other became associated at the opening of the New Chapel. Throughout it may be said of each—in affectionate and sincere service to the Church, she hath witnessed a true and faithful devotion to the Lord and Saviour.

SECTION IV. 1866-1877.

BRIEF CHRONICLES—ERECTION OF THE DAY SCHOOL-ROOM—ANNIVERSARY REPORT 1868—REMARKABLE PROGRESS—THE FIRST NEW ORGAN.

1866. The Church now relieved of the anxiety of tenancy by possession of an adequate structure built upon purchased freehold land, was free in a fuller measure to exercise its activities in the religious and spiritual uplifting of the community. That it did so, successfully, is evidenced by the testimony of the Rev. W. Boyden—"full congregations, much prosperity."

Items chronicled this year were few. A kind consideration of the preachers, who sometimes had to walk far in cold and stormy weather is manifest in the statement "coffee will in future be provided for the preacher . . . . . in the vestry." It is also pleasing to note, "on Wednesday next . . . . the leaders . . . to entertain the Chapel choir as an appreciation of their gratuitous and helpful service." "The Rev. J. Garside nominated P. Gabbitass for Home Mission Service." Owing to some connexional usage not being complied with, his appointment was not assured although he was a local preacher of repute, and deservedly popular in the city and country churches. Many will remember him. He won some distinction by literary efforts and became known as the 'Clifton Poet.'

A Day School, 1867. The growing interest in the education of children throughout England at this time, gave impetus and opportunity to the United Free Church

Methodists of Bishopston. Led by John Smith they determined on the provision of a Day-School, and started with promises of £80, made on the occasion of the Choir Pic-nic at Portishead! Was ever business and pleasure more happily combined? An informal meeting of supporters was afterwards held at the residence of William Coates and the purchase of an extra piece of land adjoining the Chapel was decided upon.

JOHN SMITH.

It made a frontage of 50 feet in Berkeley Road, and proved an excellent choice. Mr. Thomas Pease of Henbury gave £25 towards its erection, which was accomplished under the supervision of a special Committee, and without the aid of the Church financially. There was no lack of scholars when the school was opened. It was readily appreciated as supplying a clamant need in the locality. *See Section X.*

Anniversary Report, 1868. THIS Anniversary report as read by the esteemed Henry Curnock was a phenomenal one, space only forbids a complete transcription.

"We are meet this evening to celebrate our third Anniversary of this Sanctuary. We have great reason to thank God and take courage. Though we have had no exciting revival, the preaching of the Gospel has been greatly blessed, the Church having more than doubled its numbers since its erection."

"In the providence of God, John Clatworthy settled in the neighbourhood. He is deeply interested in, and devoted to our young people. John Smith also has allied himself with

us, and already shown exceptional ability in organization and management."

"The children are cared for in the Sunday School where Superintendent and Teachers believe in the power of prayer, many accessions to the Church having been made therefrom. Our Prayer Meetings on Fridays, where the Word of God is always read, have been seasons of spiritual refreshing. A Bible Class more in a conversational way has been established for the better understanding of God's Word."

"We have an efficient choir under the baton of William Oatway, during the past year, the harmomium has been removed and in its stead, an Organ* is played very efficiently by James Padfield."

"As a Church while contributing to Foreign Missions . . . . . at home in this locality thousands of Tracts are distributed on the Sabbath Day to the strollers in the roads, by our friend Abraham Cooke. He has much encouragement in so doing as we see the strollers moving on reading the Word of Life from these *fly leaves*. From door to door hundreds of the Silent Messenger have been distributed, we want volunteers to distribute more."

"God has opened a way to the realization of our long cherished hopes—a Day School has been erected by kind friends, and there are now 80 scholars' names on the registers. An efficient schoolmaster, Mr. John Walton . . . has been appointed. A report will be issued each year after the visit of H.M. Inspector."

"We rejoice that prosperity continues to attend all our agencies at work here in the Name of the Lord.

"A comfortable Chapel, an earnest ministry (Rev. J. C. Brewitt, Rev. J. Swann Withington)—A Church united in fellowship. A Sunday School with devoted teachers. A meeting for the study of Holy Scripture. A Tract Society. A Church Magazine. A Day School where a good education may be obtained at a small cost. A band of praying men and women. We rejoice, take courage, and look forward by God's blessing to another year of devoted labour for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

*The First Organ.

C. Q. Returns, Sep. 1868. "2 on Trial, 47 Members of Society, 3/9/8 Class money."

It will be conceded this Report is sonorous with triumphant notes of joy and thanksgiving, inspiring to renewed vigour in the service of the Lord. Its encouraging influence was soon made manifest by another enterprize of structural necessity, **a house for the schoolmaster** was erected. This served its purpose as long as it was so required, and now wtih the exception of one room reserved as a Class-room it is occupied by the caretaker. The Class-room connects with the Chapel, through what has been previously described as a useful cupboard.

1870. With everything in the nature of equipment amply supplied for the Church and School, there follows a period of less pronounced, nevertheless, real progress.

The First Ladies' Sewing Meeting. A Ladies' Sewing Meeting was inaugurated with a view of working in aid of Trust Funds, and successfully met the need of the day.

A Licence was obtained for the Solemnization of Marriages, and the first, recorded 24th May, 1870, by the Rev. James Slack was that of William Cragg Oatway and Christiania Clatworthy.

Bible Presentation. The venerable custom of presenting a Bible to the first married in a Chapel was honoured on this occasion here. That Bible is yet esteemed as an associating treasure.

1871-2. The Revs. W. R. Brown and R. Gray rendered assistance in financial matters which were beginning to assume a burdensome appearance, but not of an unduly depressing influence as Class Money testifies.

C. Q. Returns, June, 1873. "5 on Trial, 49 Members of Society, 4/10/6 Class Money."

1874. Bishopston United Methodist Free Church seems never to have been disposed to rest awhile 'on laurels won,' nor yet declined to accept the compensating penalty of progress

which imposes and rewards in every new sphere of labour.

A Class-room now became necessary, a Trustee Meeting sanctioned the building and its erection was quickly accomplished. At this Trustee Meeting Henry Curnock presided, and it became lamentably significant as the last he attended.

1876. Attended by the Rev. G. Warne, Chas. Clift and Wm. Oatway, met the Trustees to solicit on behalf of the choir and friends, permission to remove the present organ, to purchase and erect a new one in its place. Permission being granted **the second organ** was duly installed.

During this period and particularly in the seventies the Church on numerous occasions was brought into the valley of mourning and sorrow, through the death of some of the most honoured and prominent members in its welfare.

Tablets on the Church walls (erected to their memory) are here recorded:—

In Memory of

JOHN HARRIS,

of Cheltenham Road, Bristol,

one of the original Trustees of this Chapel, and helper in the cause of God.

He fell asleep in Jesus, Sep. 21st, 1870

Aged 64 Years.

"*The memory of the just is blessed.*"

In Memoriam

JOHN WALTON,

a Native of Newcastle-on-Tyne,

Born Jan. 18th, 1845,

Died July 7th, 1873.

He was five years Master of the adjoining British School, and four years Clerk to the Horfield Local Board. The members and Officers of the Board have erected this Tablet in testimony of his public and private worth.

In Memoriam

HENRY CURNOCK,

Entered into rest, Jan. 25th, 1875,

Aged 59 Years.

A pioneer of Methodism in Horfield, a Leader, Trustee and for 40 years, a a successful Local Preacher. This Tablet was erected by friends of the Methodist Free Churches as a token of his worth.

"*He being dead yet speaketh.*"

In Memoriam

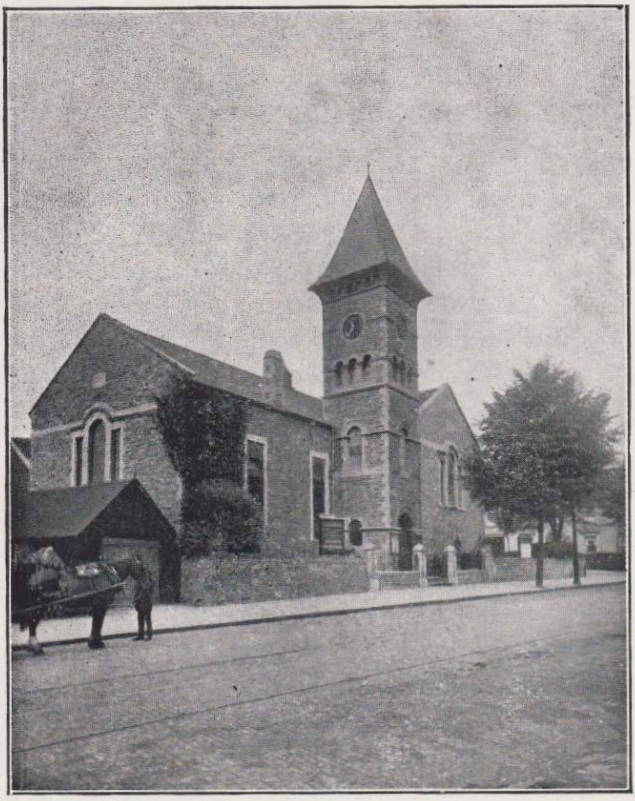
LOUISA PRITCHARD,

For 11 years a member of this Church, blind from childhood, simple in trust as patient in suffering, she sought in her life to exemplify the Gospel of God her Saviour.

Died July 12th. 1879,

Aged 61 Years.

"*Once I was blind, but now I see.*"



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,

BISHOPSTON.

SHOWING EXTENSION OF 1877 AND TOWER.

SECTION V. 1877-1886.

EXTENSION AND ERECTION OF CLOCK TOWER—OPENING SERVICES—THE FIRST RESIDENT MINISTER—CHRONICLES —CONCESSION OF SECTIONAL PRIVILEGES.

Plans of Extension, 1877. BISHOPSTON was now rapidly developing into a favoured residential locality, and its consequent growth in population, had become manifest in the congregations attending Methodist Services in the Berkeley Road Church. To meet adequately the needs of the people, enlargement of the Chapel became a necessity, it was undertaken and accomplished.

The architect, Mr. Henry Williams, Bristol, submitted plans:—showing how, by removal of the south wall and extending therefrom; the original doorway built up, and a new entrance made at the base of a conspicuous ornamental tower,—accomodation could be given to 250 more worshippers. Mr. Benjamin Price, a local builder, efficiently carried out these plans, which necessitated an outlay of nearly £1,000.

The Revs. S. S. Bevan, T. Hammond, E. Craine, the Circuit Ministers with John Smith, John Clatworthy, Wm. C. Oatway were among the most active supporters of this enterprize. Such was the confidence and earnestness of these worthy men, that in May the Trustees consented to the extension and in November of the same year, all was ready for the re-opening of an enlarged and picturesque Chapel capable of seating 500 worshippers.

A mind to give and to work pervaded the Church and Congregation. At a Tea Meeting the sum of £105 was promised as an approval of the undertaking, and the Bazaar opened by

Henry Daniel, Esq.,* in the Lecture Room of the Wesleyan Chapel, King Street, 1878, was a record success.

Within a few years the greater portion of the money needed was obtained.

Re-Opening Services, Nov. 1877. THERE were a series of re-opening services. At the first the Rev. J. Gutteridge of Manchester preached eloquent sermons to crowded audiences. The Rev. P. Rutherford on the following Wednesday delighted a congregation as numerous, with a well-delivered and appropriate address. Other famous men of the day came with messages of encouragement, and there was much rejoicing at the prospect of greater service for the Master.

The Clock in the Tower. AT the suggestion of the Rev. T. Hammond circular openings had been left in the Tower, in view of inserting a clock with four dials. Chiefly through the energy of Mr. Benjamin York who solicited subscriptions and Mrs. Greenep who organized concerts in aid of the clock fund, this also was accomplished. The clock of four dials was made and fixed by Thomas Flower of Bristol in the year 1878. It has with little repair kept very good time, hastened many a laggard southward to the city, and in other directions relieved or quickened many a passer-by.

The First Resident Minister. THE provision of accommodation for another 250 worshippers was justified by the presence of large, and often overflowing, congregations. At once ministerial appointments were increased to twenty each quarter, and the pastoral supervision committed to the Rev. E. Craine, who stayed for two years, won the affection of the people and faithfully fulfilled his duties as the first resident minister.† May 1915, he says, "I have often looked back with much pleasure on my ministry at Horfield, and trust the Church and Sunday School are yet in a prosperous condition."

Chronicles. THE Superintendents the Revs. S. Bevan, W. M. Hunter, J. C. Brewitt in various ways rendered service during this eventful period of progress.

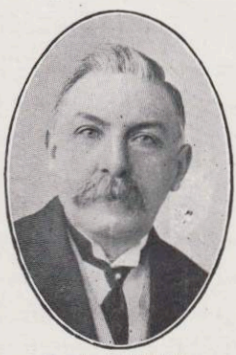
* Some years Secretary to the Bristol Reform Committee.

† Since 1877, the Minister attached to Berkeley Rd. Church has resided in Bishopston.

Increased liabilities gave anxiety and exercise to different means of raising adequate revenue, and the Church as in times past commendably prepared to meet its enlarged responsibilities.

A Lecture Scheme met with popular approval, the names of Handel Cossham, Rev. E. Gange, Rev. G. Thompson, Rev. W. Clarkson appear among the lecturers. It is gratifying to record that the Rev. G. W. Bence of the neighbouring church presided at one of the lectures. A series of concerts under the direction of Mr. E. Casling proved helpful. A resuscitation of Sewing Meetings under the care of Mrs. Cowell, Mrs. Walton, Miss Curnock added considerably to income. Bazaars were organized successfully, and the delectable Methodist Tea Meetings held as usual.

The Revs. W. M. Hunter, W. Locke Smith, J. C. Brewitt, S. Poad laboured excellently among the young people. A Library and an Improvement Society represent a new and good work in operation. One member in conversation recently expressing indebtedness added "I started to think and speak in the Improvement Class, I remember with pleasure the visits of the Rev. T. J. Cox." R. Burden appears 1884, as a leader of the Men's Bible Class, and a very acceptable local preacher. Miss Carey a well-beloved sister, accepted the leadership of the first Women's Bible Class.



G. H. HIGMAN.
PEW STEWARD.

A new Class-room was erected 1884, served its day-school purposes, and is known now as the Church-Parlour.

To C. Chorley is attributed the arrangement of a Choir Outing by brake, and thanks to him are recorded.

G. H. Higman, was present at stone-laying, opening of Chapel, witnessed the extension—an esteemed office-bearer.

As far back as 1846 TEETOTAL designated a subscriber, to the building of Mount Zion Chapel. Evidently there were now teetotalers of a braver nature, who assured the resolution "that non-intoxicating wine be provided for use in the

celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper." There are very few, if any, U.M. Ministers who are not teetotalers, this carries its own conclusion *re* the use of certain wine.

1885. At this time there arose 'much ado' about the clock in the tower, winding operations being irregular—Mr. B. York is again credited with the success of collection to defray the expense, such activity conferred then a public benefit, and still in memory, merits the gratitude of thousands who want to know the time.

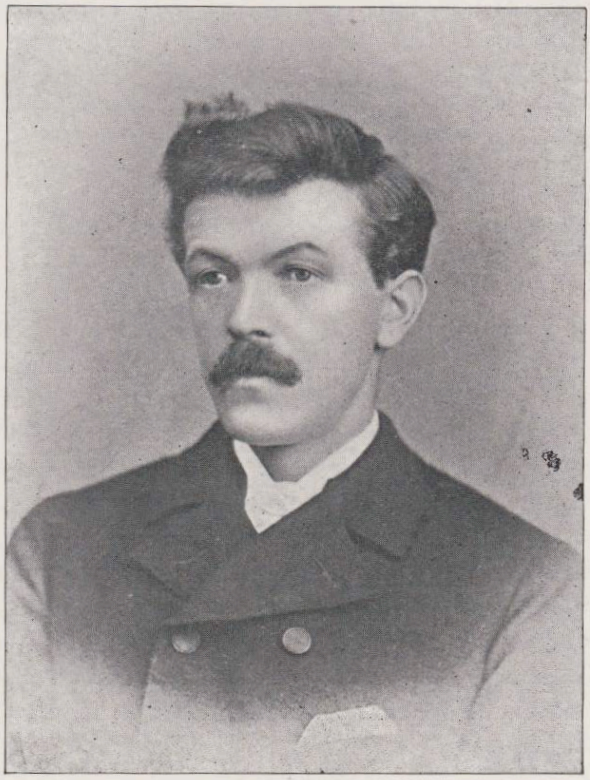
A Legitimate Desire. Within the Church also there had been 'much ado' arising out of a legitimate desire to take the sole charge of its own affairs by the adoption of the Sectional principle, a simple and effective arrangement connexionally allowed for the better working and management of extensive circuits.

The Sectional principle would accede to Bishopston Church the privilege of inviting, providing for, and largely controlling the services of its minister, and include with certain circuit duties the oversight of additional country Churches of the Circuit. An immediate re-adjustment such as this consummation imposed, however desirable was impracticable and 'the mother Church' declined to consent immediately to such a far-reaching and important change. In haste Bishopston sought union with the West Circuit (formed 1878); it declined to entertain the proposal and wiser counsels happily prevailed.

A Petition, *v.* Sectional Concession. A Petition unanimously adopted by the Church and congregation asking that the sectional principle be applied to Bishopston, was presented to the June Circuit Quarterly Meeting at Milk Street. Its appeal was eventually conceded, establishing Bishopston with Five country churches as a section of the North Circuit. In legal confirmation a memorandum of 10 Clauses dealing with the privileges, responsibility, power, and duties all clearly defined (signed September 13th, 1886), bears the signatures of:—
CHARLES GARLICK, H. A. TUCKEY, *Circuit Stewards.*
JOHN SMITH, GEORGE BEACHAM, *Sectional Stewards for Bishopston.*

Now came the long desired opportunity to invite a minister, and the choice fell naturally upon one, who during three years faithful ministry had proved himself a devoted pastor, an effective preacher. Throughout the circuit there was no difference of opinion. The Rev. Samuel Poad, beloved at Bishopston and more than popular in the villages, where it has been said 'his visits were great times for them,' was invited and he was willing to stay. Urgent representations to retain him were of no avail. The 'letter' of the concessions and not the spirit thereof prevailed.

A valedictory tea meeting was held. At the public meeting which followed, Mr. John Smith the Chapel Steward presided; he expressed the general regret that was felt at Mr. Poad's departure, and in the name of those to whom he had ministered wished him every success in his new sphere of labour,—Birkenhead. Mr. W. H. Pingstone made the presentation of a purse of gold contributed by friends, as a small token of their regard.

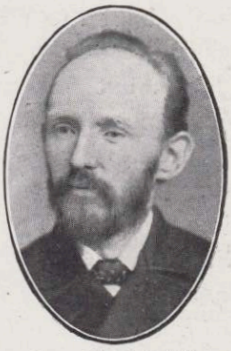


REV. SAMUEL POAD.

SECTION VI. 1886-1890.

THE BISHOPSTON SECTION OF THE BRISTOL NORTH CIRCUIT—SIX CHURCHES—MINISTERS—REV. W. TOPPIN—REV. J. T. HODGE.

Rev. W. Toppin, 1886-1888.



REV. W. TOPPIN.

AUGUST saw the advent of the Rev. W. Toppin as the first minister invited with the approval of the Bishopston Section of six Churches.

At a reception service largely attended, and presided over by the Rev. W. R. Tungate, the new pastor was very cordially welcomed to Bishopston.

THE necessary Sectional Officers and Delegates to C.Q. Meetings were duly elected. Appointments of ministerial services were well arranged. "The Rev. W. Toppin to preach at Patchway, Tockington, Olveston, Littleton, Pilning one week night service each quarter, and on Sunday as planned." Applications for Sunday ministerial service on the occasion of Anniversaries were approved and invariably met. It is recorded "the Rev. W. Toppin preach at Tockington Anniversary and Mr. Burroughs take his place at Bishopston." Also "the next Sunday in the country be given to Patchway *as asked for*"—'Well begun is half done' appears to have actuated the officers in their endeavour to strengthen the adherence of the village Churches. That their loyalty was secured only needs to be stated here.

1887. ANNIVERSARY Sermons preached by Rev. M. T. Myers of grateful memory in the village churches, as President of the assembly, 1892. The first record of Harvest Thanksgiving Services being held here 1888. Alfred Dowling became an accredited local preacher, and also accepted the position of Society Steward, which he held efficiently for three years.

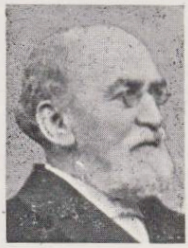
The pastoral work of the Rev. W. Toppin was of a character which abides and at his leaving the Church registered 76 members of Society with 14 on Trial. He was strong in the power of prayer, he revived the Friday weekly prayer-meetings, and started one at 7 o'clock on Sunday mornings. He conducted a Youths' Class personally, sustained the Lecture Scheme, started a Literary Society for adults, which met in the new class room, and averaged an attendance of 40.

Though not of robust health no country appointment lacked the presence of the Rev. W. Toppin. Many were the calls for his service as an Evangelistic Missioner, but he found "joy to do the Master's will" in the Churches of this section.* He was unanimously invited for a third year, but felt a change would be better for the Church, though it meant to him a severance from many faithful friends.

Expressions of regret at his departure were numerous and sincere. Presentations were made in testimony of the high regard and esteem in which he was held. From the Literary Society a powerful microscope with objects, accompanied an address in book form beautifully illuminated with floral and other designs, containing a pretty water colour sketch of the Chapel, the work of Mr. Cecil Walton, son of the late schoolmaster. From the Church the Rev. W. Toppin was made the recipient of a handsome marble clock.

Rev. J. T. Hodge, 1888-1890. The Rev. J. T. Hodge diligent in the Father's business, with devoted ability he gave fostering care to all that concerned the welfare of the circuit, in wisdom and patience he strove to uphold Christian fellowship in harmony during a disturbed period, he declined the unanimous invitation to remain a third year.

* A request for interchange of pulpits from the Rev. John Wesley Worth of Newtown Church, links the present with the past. This good man's son H. H. Worth we know now as a member of Berkeley Road Church and an accredited local preacher.



Rev. J. T. HODGE.

As an indication of good work 23 members on Trial were accepted at one Church meeting. Among those obtained to lecture, was the Rev. Anthony Holliday, who at this time was the Principal of the U.M. Theological College Manchester, having succeeded the first Principal the Rev. T. Hacking, well-known in Bishopston.

A Worker's Association achieved much under the leadership of Alfred Dowling. Over £100 were raised by Bazaar, and £60 paid to Trust Funds.

An interesting record reads as follows; 1890, "a cheque for £50 from the estate of Miss Isabella S. Curnock the daughter of Henry Curnock, in favour of the Trust was presented by the chairman. It should be observed the executrix was not bound by law to pay a greater sum than £3 15s 0d. The Trustees expressed their admiration for the distinction Miss Clarke had made between honour and legality."

Unfortunately a difference of opinion had arisen within the Church—many members esteeming the privileges of sectional freedom were desirous of maintaining them, and upheld an invitation to the Rev. J. T. Hodge on three occasions, others considered the sacrifice of ministerial service for one year would enable the Church to establish its finance on a solid basis, and therefore no minister ought to be invited until 1891. None sought or even anticipated a reversion to the Milk Street regimè. A meeting of seat-holders declared against "going back to the North Circuit."—A special Church Management Committee resolved: "that the Bishopston section desires to be relieved of the responsibilities of a resident minister *during the next Connexional year*, which resolution 'was cancelled' at the next ordinary meeting of the C.M.C."—There is no evidence that the question ever came before a Church or sectional quarterly meeting, and stranger still, the motion to rescind was carried on July 1st, when a letter dated June 30th conveyed the unexpected viz:—". . . . That this Circuit Quarterly Meeting held at Milk Street, having received notice that the

Bishopston section desires to be relieved of the responsibilities of a resident minister *during the next Connexional year* . . . . resolves to take into its keeping, the entire working of the Circuit commencing at the beginning of the next Connexional year."

However unconnexional the request 'no minister for a year,' may have been, its purpose was frankly stated. Most probably a single hour's conference and prayer would have settled the whole matter in a different way, without arousing feelings of disappointment and anger, would have renewed a mutual confidence of the two sections, and may have averted the entire severance of 1894.

C.Q. Returns, Bishopston 67, Patchway 9, Olveston 3, Pilning 7, Littleton 7, Tockington 18; — 111. March 1889.

JAMES HEARD. JAMES NEATH.

Two of the oldest Church Members.

TOGETHER FOR SOME YEARS AS STEWARDS OF THE POOR.

SECTION VII. 1890-1894.

BISHOPSTON AGAIN A CHURCH OF THE NORTH CIRCUIT—PROGRESS—SORROW—FURTHER PROGRESS—BISHOPSTON BECOMES A CIRCUIT—BRIEF CHRONICLES—MINISTERS—REV. S. GIBSON,—REV. W. C. HOPE.

Rev. S. Gibson, 1890-1892. THE Rev. Samuel Gibson by appointment of the Bristol North Circuit entered upon duty and proved to be in temperament and character the right man in the right place, a man whom to know was to love. He quickly found a welcome in the hearts of the people, saintliness characterized him, his very presence exerted a subduing and harmonizing influence bespeaking peace, and the Church, reduced in numbers, soon began to increase.

Mrs. Gibson and daughter also shared in service and in all the approbation and honour Bishopston could bestow. Throughout, Christian fellowship prevailed, and in hearts united with one mind and purpose to the glory of God and the welfare of Bishopston, the Church now entered under the affectionate pastorate of the Rev. Samuel Gibson, the dawn of a bright day.

As yet afar off, unseen, a gathering of clouds, clouds of sorrow and bereavement, came to hover with unbrageous shadow over the home of the pastor. It was not well with the child . . . she slept . . . and all that remained of the beloved was conveyed to Arno's Vale, where many sympathizing friends assembled in reverence to witness the interment.

The father's heart was broken; as one stricken he sorrowed. This only daughter's death proved a blow he did not long survive. Just before Christmas 1891 he had a fall which

shook him severely. This was followed by an attack of bronchitis that brought him very low, yet hopes were held, that he would be restored; but early on the morning of February 1st, 1892, with very little warning, he slept on earth to wake in heaven. Thus this faithful minister passed 'home' in the 58th year of his age.

Extract from the *Bristol Christian Leader*:—

"It is our mournful duty to record the death of the Rev. S. Gibson, who passed away February 1st, 1892. The funeral took place on the following Thursday. A brief service was held in the sanctuary where he had ministered. It was conducted by the Rev. W. Boyden and the Rev. J. Swann Withington. A large congregation was present, and feelingly sang 'Lead Kindly Light' and 'Now the labour's task is o'er.' The funeral cortége then proceeded to Arno's Vale, where the remains were interred with those of his only daughter, who died just a year ago."

'In memory of' see Sunday School.

Rev. W. C. Hope 1892-1894. AFTER more than six months without a settled minister, during which time the Rev. J. Swann Withington, and other Free Church ministers officiated, the services of Recognition of the Rev. W. C. Hope were held with much expectancy and gratitude.

The interim of 'no pastor' was over, and deliberations of leaders and minister soon became indicative of renewed purposeful activities.

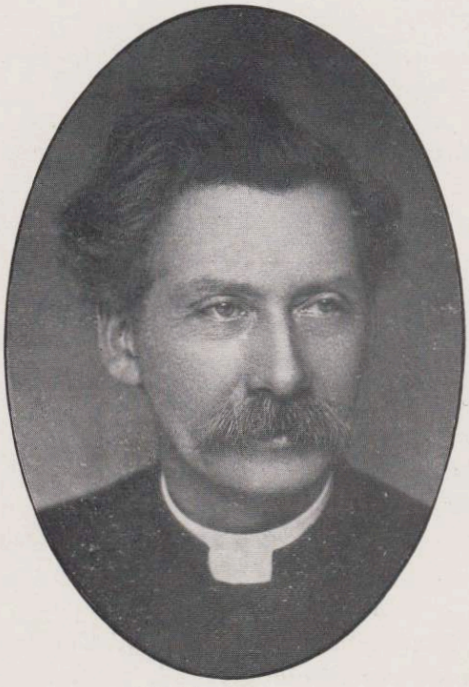
Preceded by a house to house visitation and a week of prayer, an Evangelistic Mission* was conducted by Thomas Weedon, resulting in additions of membership.

The first Christian Endeavour Society at Bishopston was formed, and the meetings were exceptionally well attended. A Temperance Association held public meetings on Saturday nights. The sewing meetings continued with vigour and again a Bazaar proved highly satisfactory. A renovation outlay of £68

* In 1892 there were no less than 20 U.M.F. Ch. Evangelists at work throughout the Country. A very successful campaign of the 'John Wesley Car,' under the management of Mr. Hooper, included Bristol and neighbouring Churches—a visit was paid to Horfield.

was undertaken and paid for, the Guild provided Tune Books for the Church choir. A series of lectures was admirably sustained, returning an appreciable revenue. The Rev. J. R. Richards lectured on "Christmas Evans, Rev. Moffatt Logan on "Oliver Cromwell," Rev. F. W. Brown on "Rowland Hill," these indicating a preference for biography, wherein the recorded lives of men touch living men even to emulation.

The Rev. W. C. Hope is remembered as a preacher of exceptional ability, quiet, forcible, convincing, at times passionate in address. Among men in furtherance or defence of right he displayed persistency with a keen sense of justice, he remained a faithful friend to all with whom he differed; 'he came,' says one, 'at the psychological moment for the good of Bishopston;' yet withal in a very significant sense his ministry exemplified that saying true, 'one soweth and another reapeth.' Far from commensurate with his devoted labours was his harvest gathering. None realized better than he the reaping was sure some day, and in this confidence, though unanimously invited to stay, was satisfied to enter a new sphere of labour at Huddersfield, content on leaving Bishopston Church free from any connection whatsoever with the North Circuit.



Rev. W. C. HOPE.

The withdrawal of the sectional working and priviliges, accentuated the desire for entire severance from the North Circuit, it grew and strengthened within the Bishopston Church

until it could not reasonably be any longer witheld. The Rev. W. C. Hope within a few months of his coming realized in the interests of Methodism, Bishopston must be freed, and a final emancipation be gained. Through much anxiety and not a little misunderstanding, he strove to advocate the claims of separation on the ground of first; the unanimous vote of the Church, Trustees and Congregation; second, the financial competence to maintain the privileges sought; third, to accept the attachment of Patchway and Littleton Churches, both of which at this time had severed themselves owing to the recent expulsion *(see minutes 1892)*, of local preachers and formed as now part of the sixth circuit. He urged that with or without country Churches, Bishopston must be detached.

Mr. F. G. Gee church steward, and the pastor, interviewed circuit officials, attended many consulations, and the Rev. R. Chew representing the Connexion rendered valuable service of a conciliatory nature. Ultimately the connexional committee advised, the Assembly sanctioned and authorized the separation. Only in one sense this may be, as it is yet referred to—'the crowning achievement' of the Rev. W. C. Hope.

Mr. F. Geo. GEE.

The gratitude of the Church and people is recorded thus :—

Resolution :

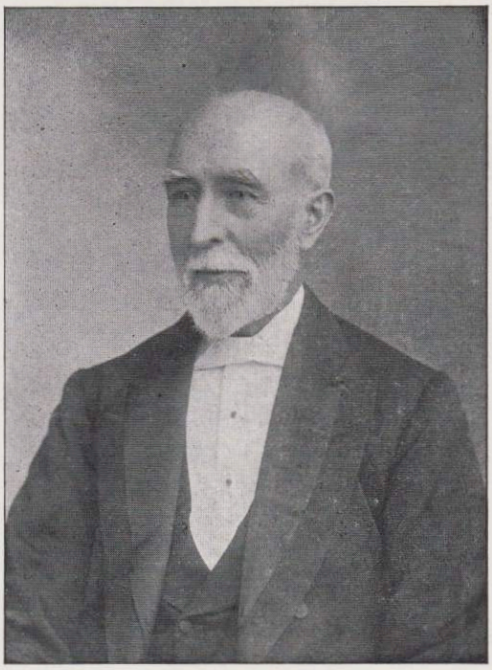
" That this being the last meeting that the Rev. W. C. Hope will attend here, we place on record our gratitude to him for the faithful services rendered, not spiritually alone, but in the recent controversy, which has happily ended in our release, and independence as a Church and Circuit. We pray God's richest blessing may rest and abide upon him in his new sphere of labour."

The Rev. W. C. Hope has efficiently for years held the Connexional Office of Examination Secretary *(Y.P. Scripture Exam)*.

SECTION VIII. 1894-1904.

BISHOPSTON CHURCH AND CIRCUIT—ITS DOINGS AND ACHIEVEMENTS—MINISTERS—REV. J. JONES—REV. J. PERCIVAL—REV. E. J. TRAVIS.

Rev. J. Jones, 1894-1899. ONLY a few remembered "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on Eternal Life" as the text of a Trial Sermon preached by a young man at Mount Zion, Horfield, in 1863, but everyone present rejoiced in the Recognition Services of the Rev. James Jones, who by invitation came to be the first circuit minister of Bishopston United Methodist Free Church. After nearly thirty years of ministerial experience in various Churches, he came with ripened knowledge and wisdom in all things relating to pastoral care, the winning of souls, and the promulgation of Methodism. The circumstances were exceptional if not unique.



REV. J. JONES.

The Rev. J. Jones is remembered as a 'shepherd' whose gentle persuasiveness

won respect and esteem, whose constant and faithful ministry by unobtrusive visitation, encouragement and sympathy went far to secure the foundation of the present-day Church. Great things were not of his order, but the many less demonstrative efforts in the aggregate made the much he did 'excellent' before the close of his ministry.

Class Meetings were revived, and a Men's Bible Class met together on Sunday afternoons, the Christian Endeavour Society flourished, a morning Sunday School was opened, and a Youths' Recreation Society provided a Library, the young men were kept within the sphere of Church influence. The first weekly Band of Hope started here, a piano was purchased, and fifty pounds were paid in aid of the Trust Funds,* mainly obtained by sales of work, of which, one each year alternated with the same number of Evangelistic Missions, as if to demonstrate in full practice the familiar motto "Work and Pray." Missionary efforts also were well sustained and the Church steadily increased in number.

There appears to have been many removals from the register by death, one only need be recorded,—'after protracted suffering the beloved wife of our esteemed pastor,' April 3rd, 1897. The funeral was attended by the Rev. J. Swann Withington who gave a brief address.

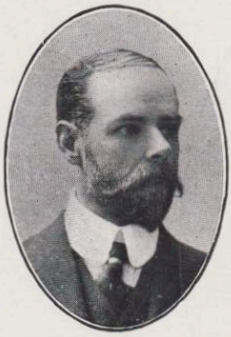
Presentations. On leaving Bishopston two of the oldest members, Mr. J. Heard and Mr. W. Grace (a Crimea hero), on behalf of the Church and congregation, presented a purse of gold to the pastor as an appreciation of faithful service. Words sincere and kind were voiced on this occasion by many who wished him every blessing in the circuit he was about to enter, Castleford. Miss K. Jones also was made recipient of a token of esteem.

The Rev. J. Jones is now supernumerary, residing at Cheltenham.

Captain D. Harrison presented a much-needed harmonium W. H. Butler, Esq., gave £20 and promised a similar sum annually, as long as it was needed—this promise was graciously kept for 12 years, then the Church felt it could no longer trespass on such generosity.

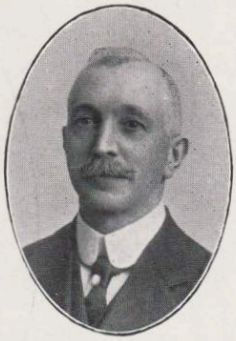
* The Trust Debt was wisely consolidated under the guidance of Rev. J. Jones

Mr. F. Geo. Gee removed 1896, to Birmingham, and Bishopston lost a loyal and staunch supporter of the Church. As compensat-



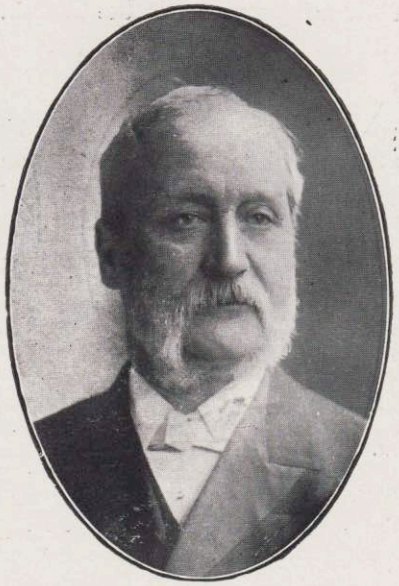
Mr. A. H. N. MIDDLETON
12 Years Trustees' Treasurer and Pew Steward.

Mr. H. J. RIDER.
Circuit Steward.

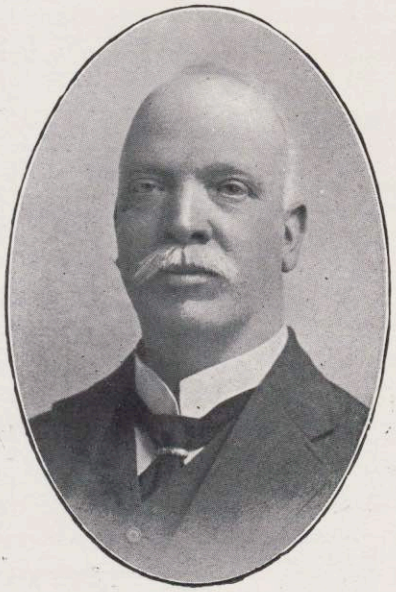


Mr. R. B. SLEEMAN
Senior Circuit Steward.

ing gains, however, it is pleasing to record the advent of Messrs. A. H. N. Middleton, H. J. Rider, and R. B. Sleeman, who, in official capacity, rendered valuable service and yet remain helpful, constant and esteemed.



REV. JABEZ PERCIVAL.



MR. O. J. GULLICK.

Rev. J. Percival, 1899-1902. UNDER the pastorate of the Rev. Jabez Percival, the Church in every sphere of its activity, was well maintained and augmented.

The Guild. THE formation of a Young People's Guild proved a valuable acquisition, the bright, genial and humourous disposition of its president, the pastor, did much to keep the youth attached to the Church. Subjects of current interest were introduced and discussed. The meetings created much interest, and the new, young life was led to the practice of good works. The Guild defrayed the expenses of a new window in the Church, as well as re-decorating and providing pictures for the Church parlour, and annually subscribed to the Trustee Funds. The beautiful framed engraving, "Diana or Christ," was presented by a visitor, Mr. Jacob Bowland, of Bowdon—the cost of installation of electric light, by Mr. Jas. Bowland—the Clock was given by the Men's Bible Class, and the Overmantle by Mr. H. J. Rider.

Mrs. Percival's gracious charm of manner and character, considerably advanced an attachment of the congregation, and strengthened every effort made for the welfare of the Church, as a visitor to the sick and feeble she excelled, indeed the pastor, his wife and children renounced much for Bishopston, in the making of a godly family life to prevail in the Church, numbering 102.

Renovation Scheme. THESE happy conditions were opportune and conducive to the success of the largest Renovation Scheme in the history of the Church. At this time, Mr. O. J. Gullick, a man of characteristic enterprise and energy, accepted the position of Church Secretary, mainly owing to the influence and enthusiasm he exerted, the Church entered upon a very comprehensive undertaking: to include the removal of the old-fashioned pews, and reseat the Chapel with more comfortable ones of pitch pine—re-decorating and repairing inside and outside of Chapel and School—the installation of electric light—new heating apparatus —structural repairs of various kinds,—and the purchase of a new organ. With a pastor, Church, and people united in purpose, a secretary of keen foresight and organizing ability, this herculean task was undertaken, with what success the following brief details show.

The Renovation Committee, with the Rev. J. Percival, Chairman ; O. J. Gullick, Secretary ; J. Heard, Treasurer ; Jas. Bowland Treasurer of Bazaar, spent nearly £1,200. Cost of re-seating, etc., £350. Electric instalment, £100. New windows, £100. Heating apparatus, £150. Re-decorating, structural repairs, etc,, £350. Clock in Tower and school room, and other minor expenses, £25, and £60 in aid of Trust Funds.

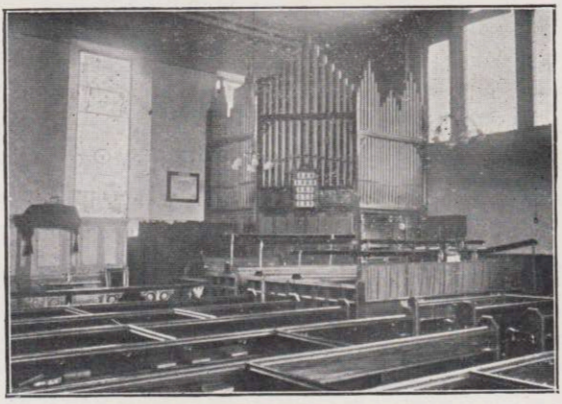
Six new windows were contributed, a brass tablet affixed to each, records the name of the donor. Mrs. J. Seamer, George H. Higman, Charles Chorley, Mary H. Higman, The Young People's Guild and

THIS WINDOW WAS GIVEN BY

MISS HARRISON

in loving memory of her mother
a member of this Church for many years,
Who died Jan. 23rd, 1891.

The New Organ. An Organ Committee was formed with Mr. O. J. Gullick, Secretary ; Mr. T. F. Simmonds, Treasurer. The promise of the late Captain D. Harrison of £50, was generously made good by his daughter, Miss Harrison, and heads the list of



THE NEW ORGAN.

subscriptions ; another pleasing item is £16 from the Sunday School. The old organ realized £40, and passed on to duty in Brislington, in its place, by anoutlay of £468, an excellent organ was built, and erected by Mr. G. Johnson, Bristol.

Opening. Wednesday, July 11th, 1902. The new organ* was opened with a recital by Mr. George Riseley, and not only had the congregation of the Church the pleasure of hearing the qualities of the organ demonstrated by so able an executant, but they also had the satisfaction of seeing the Chapel crowded. The recital was greatly enjoyed. An enlarged Choir, conducted by Mr. T. F. Simmonds, gave with excellent effect, the Anthems. "Praise the Lord" (*Goss*), "The Lord reigneth" (*Clare*); while the soloist, Miss Edith Evans, has rarely sung so well.

Sunday, July 15th. In connection with the opening of the new organ, Dr. D. Irving, M.A., D.C.L., of Heywood, preached to large congregations, morning and evening. In the afternoon, a musical service. . . . . C. J. Lowe, Esq., presided.

Monday. Mr. O. J. Gullick gave an account of the organ fund, and attributed its success very largely to the energy of Mr. T. F. Simmonds. The Chairman, D. Irving, Esq., of Stapleton, offered congratulations. Dr. D. Irving gave an address. At intervals, Mr. A. N. Price, organist of Highbury Chapel, officiated on the organ. Miss Clara Aldersley effectively sang, "Nearer my God to Thee," and "The voice of the Father."

MR. F. J. SIMMONDS.

On another occasion of organ recital, the first Lord Mayor of Bristol, Sir Herbert Ashman, accompanied by Lady Ashman, graciously honoured the Church by their presence.

To the regret of the Church and congregation, Rev. J. Percival could not be retained another year; "his works do follow him," whether from a social, financial, or religious aspect in review this three years ministry stands prominently as most effective and blessed to the Church and people.

*It need be no secret now, that prior to the Opening Ceremony the organ was first played at the close of a Sunday evening service at the request of the pastor, to accompany the singing of the Doxology, in gratitude for the declaration of peace, South African War.

Rev. E. J. Travis, 1903-1904. Rev. E. J. Travis, saintly in spirit, faithful to duty, full of sympathy and kindness, loving God with all his heart, and his neighbour as himself, after nearly 40 years service for Christ in Methodist Circuits, came to the pastorate of Bishopston U.M. Free Church, with the knowledge that another had accepted the invitation to commence duties in 1904. Twelve months only was this good man here ; he is remembered in sincere affection. One has recently said of him, " To hear him pray was to realize how truly he walked with God." During his brief ministry, believers were strengthened, sinners led to the Saviour, and the Church attained that spiritual tone that best adorns the doctrine of Jesus Christ.

The only financial effort this year was reported :—" £86 paid for the furnishing of the minister's house." Membership 109.

The farewell of the Rev. E. J. Travis and his daughter, was followed by many benedictions and prayers. He accepted superannuation in 1904, and was called to eternal rest, July 1910, Mansfield.

CORRECTION :

Rev. E. J. Travis, 1902-1903.

SECTION IX. 1903-1914.

ELEVEN YEARS MINISTRY OF THE REV. CHARLES PYE—RECOGNITION—PROGRESS—ERECTION OF LECTURE HALL, CLASSROOM, &c.—ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CHURCH—CHRONICLES—PRESENTATIONS.

Rev. C. Pye, 1903-1914. A right royal welcome awaited the Rev. Charles Pye. It was given at the Recognition, on Monday, Sept. 21st., 1903. After tea in the school-room, Mr. O. J. Gullick presided over a large and enthusiastic gathering in the Chapel. Mr. R. B. Sleeman, on behalf of the Church, supplemented the Chairman's happy words of welcome and the Rev. J. Jones, for the congregation, Mr. H. J. Connett, the Sunday School, Mr. J. Neath the Bible Class, Mr. T. F. Simmonds, the Choir, Mr. H. J. Rider, the Missionary Society, Mr. Jas. Bowland for the Guild, made brief reference to the work being done, and expressed the joy given to each organization by the advent of the Rev. C. Pye to Bishopston.

REV. CHARLES PYE.

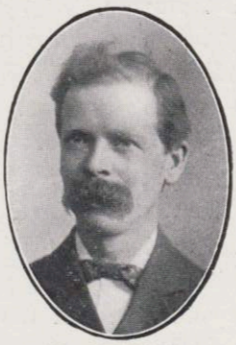
In the Rev. Charles Pye was soon discovered a pastor of sterling character, a persuasive leader, a man of righteous enterprise, and in due time, when, according to Methodist rules an invitation to remain must be given, one voice and one purpose prevailed, the pastor was cordially invited to accept the ministry here until 1910. Prior to 1910 another invitation, and yet another to remain until August, 1915, was given and accepted, but the Rev. C. Pye felt "called" to the Superintendence of the Newport Road Circuit, Cardiff, commencing to labour there in August, 1914, and thus the longest ministry at Bishopston, closed by a resignation received with sincere regret of the Church and the people in whose affection he, with Mrs. Pye, yet remains cherished.

From the following necessarily brief references, the reader may now gather something of the good and abiding work done, but far, very far, from all that has been accomplished in many other directions during and through the ministry, the character, the life at Bishopston, of the Rev. Charles Pye.

Bible Classes. THE Men's Class from which so many have been requisitioned for service in other departments, continued. In the hope of attracting the young men who were leaving the S. School, this Class was re-organized, 1912, and has since been known as the Men's Own. Very pleasant meetings are held. The Women's Class inaugurated by Mrs. Pye, proved a great success; it out-grew available accommodation, and eventually the Lecture Hall was apportioned to its use. Throughout, much good has been done. In every needy direction Mrs. Pye's Class has rendered liberal assistance by service and gifts.

The Christian Endeavour Society, restarted in 1908, flourishes; many of its members have been admitted into the Church. The pastor invariably conducted the monthly Consecration Service. As a Society, it has helped in various ways, re-decorating the Guild-room, in the Stone-laying of new rooms, etc. The Junior Christian Endeavour was formed and conducted by Mrs. Pye. The annual provision of tea and entertainment for poor children, with twice winning the North Bristol Shield for the highest Missionary collection per member, are given as factors of its usefulness and moral training.

MR. A. R. WORNER.
Church Secretary.



MR. C. VALLIS.
Local Preachers' Secretary.

The Guild of Young People continued until 1908, amply fulfilling its purpose. The Lectures of the Rev. J. Heath, B.A. were particularly enjoyable, large audiences appreciating his visits. Among the helpful services of Guild members may be mentioned a thorough repairing of the harmonium, and gift of a new music stool by Mr. A. J. Parsons, and the astonishing success of the Exhibition of Arts and Crafts in 1905, organized by Mr. Jas. Bowland it realized £25 in aid of Trust Funds.

Local Preachers. DURING this period, W. H. R. Cleave and R. B. Sleeman were accepted as accredited local preachers. Sidney Neath entered the Moravian College, and now, as the Rev. S. Neath, is honoured as a Missionary on the foreign field. A. G. Barker, under the tuition of the pastor, gained an entrance to Ranmoor College in view of the United Methodist Ministry, and is now doing well at the Manchester Theological College.

The Messenger of which 1,000 copies were distributed monthly for three years, considerably helped to make known the doings of the Church. Its resuscitation is needed.

The Missionary Contributions. to the Connexion at the advent of the Rev. C. Pye, did not exceed £17 per annum. They now show an average of £39 for each of the eleven years, besides a special sum of £66 sent towards the reduction of the Missionary Debt. A phenomenal and praiseworthy total of £495.

New Classrooms. In 1906, owing to the crowded state of the Sunday School, and the inadequate accommodation for the comfort and growth of Mrs. Pye's Class, a building scheme received a cordial and unanimous adoption, but not until 1911 was this necessitous extension commenced. New plans were submitted by E. Dinsley, of Preston, tenders invited, and the work entrusted to F. S. Hunt, of Horfield. The foundation stone-laying was witnessed by a large gathering of friends, and 23 stones initialled, bear witness to 23 guineas subscribed. A lecture Hall, a small Class room, etc., and a freestone porch at the entrance of the large school room have been substantially erected. In the illus-

LECTURE HALL AND PORCH.

tration the small class room does not appear. Mr. Hunt's thorough workmanship has given entire satisfaction. To Mr. C. Chorley, for honorary supervision during the building, the Church recorded its gratitude. On completion a Dedication Service was well attended. The total outlay reached the sum of £600.

Recreation. The retention of the young people, an ever recurring difficulty of Church life, was so far met by the provision of means for recreation. The Institute and Football Club were but short-lived.

Chiefly from the Guild and Sunday School was started a Cricket Club, in its formation Mr. A. Worner worked assiduously with the pastor. At Quabb Farm and Golden Hill, there have been delightful times for spectators as well as for those who " wield the willow." The Tennis Club in which ladies are numerically superior, shows an increasing membership, and remains popular.

Sewing Meetings, under the genial supervision of Mrs. Pye, ably supported by Miss Hanks and others, were sustained and augmented, not only to work in assistance of Bazaar efforts, but with often an all-day sitting, the members laboured cheerfully in aid of every needy cause of the Church. In 5 years a sum of £125 has been raised and paid to the Trust Funds. In fact, the Ladies of Berkeley Road Church have, at all times since 1870, been foremost in endeavour to liquidate or relieve financial burdens.

The Church, Its Minister, Its Membership.

ASSUREDLY the good influence of the Rev. C. Pye permeated every agency of the Church, recreative social, financial, but everybody knew his aspirations were in the direction of achievements of a higher order ; viz., the conversion of men by the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. All other things to him counted as little. Soon after his advent, a monthly evangelistic service was arranged, the usual hymn books being substituted by those of Sankey or Torrey. Periodically, there were services held for the deepening of Spiritual Life, at which addresses of a searching and quickening character were given by the pastor and ministers of other denominations, thus the saving of sinners was followed by a strengthening of the saints. The Rev. C. Pye, possessed of " a passion for souls," was always expectant of reaping. " For Christ and the Church " actuated and pervaded all his ministrations. He was an able preacher, drew and maintained large congregations ; his morning sermons, as a rule, were comforting, encouraging and helpful, with an occasional defence or exposition of doctrine. Evening sermons, never without salvation to all men through Christ crucified, were heart searching, Christ declaring, and convincing, in fact, his chief excellence lay in " publishing " the sinners' Friend, and many were added to the Church, until, at his departure, the membership had risen from 109 to 208 with one on trial.

Church Finance. UNQUALIFIED success must be ascribed to all monetary efforts. As early as 1905, £100 by guinea subscriptions, in 1906 £40, in 1908 £250 by Bazaar, and as previously stated from the Ladies' Sewing Meetings £125, making a total of £515 paid to the Trust Funds.

Also by Bazaars, 1911 and 1913, £700 was raised, of which £100 was used to clear current accounts, and £600 for the new buildings. Truly an excellent record of Church Finance at Bishopston. A total of £1,215, in addition to an adequate amount to meet Church and Trust current accounts, Missionary contributions, and other Connexional Claims.

Unqualified success in Church Finance is surely a revealing phrase, within it " Love in its tenderness " has offered a thousand or more gifts unto the Lord of the House, out of affectionate attachment to the House of the Lord. Other than current coin, there are numerous donations recorded from members and friends, each in relief of expenditure or made contributory to revenue as the gift itself implies ; several tons of coal, a carriage, cwts. of pears, a register grate for the minister's vestry, a handsome table and 50 chairs for the Lecture Hall. Brussels carpet covering platform and pulpit floor, and lastly, though other gifts could be named, the gift of flowers for the communion table by ladies anonymous.

Chronicles. J. G. MITCHELL, an esteemed Trustee Steward, *(Personae)* visited Jamaica, in the hope of renewed health. The voyage was beneficial, but on July 16th, 1907, he peacefully entered into rest. A worthy officer, a liberal supporter. A Christian brother not forgotten.

Miss Withers, in 1907, accepted the honorary position as collector in aid of the Brisith and Foreign Bible Society, and continues with efficiency.

1909. PRESENTATION to Miss Mary H. Higman, a well-known member of the Choir, on the occasion of her marriage to Mr. A. H. Clatworthy, of Melksham, the son of the afore-mentioned John Clatworthy, pioneer of Methodism in Horfield.

1910. PRESENTATION and bon voyage to Mr. W. Nancekeville on his leaving for New Zealand.

1912. PRESENTATION to Rev. Sidney Neath, prior to his departure to enter upon Missionary labours. His parents have long been connected with our Church, and we rejoice with them in the devotion of a worthy son to the cause of Christ in a land far away.

1913. G. H. MACHIN, a patriarch among local preachers, a familiar speaker at our open air meetings, called home, May 27th, after three years patient uncomplaining suffering.

Chronicles, 1905. HITHERTO the early designation, Horfield had been retained in all Connexional Reports. It was confusing to read of Horfield Returns, when they were those of Bishopston. On request being made through the District Meeting, the use of the more popular nomenclature was officially sanctioned and adopted.

Desire for Union, 1906. THE desire for the Union of the sections of Methodism had been under consideration for some years previous. In 1903 a tentative basis had been submitted to the Conferences of the U.M. Free Churches, the Bible Christian, the Methodist New Connexion, and adopted by them. In 1906 a Constitution, with a scheme for the amalgamation of funds, etc., was drawn up, and a copy sent to each of the Circuits. This Constitution and scheme were discussed at the Bishopston Circuit Meeting; on the question of Chairmanship only, was there a divided opinion, all other matters were unanimously adopted.

Methodist Free Church Conference, Bristol, 1906. THIS Conference met in Milk Street Chapel. Rev. C. Pye and Mr. A. H. N. Middleton represented the Bishopston Church. Methodist Union was enthusiastically received and carried, there being one only dissentient.

Union of Three Churches, Sep. 17th, 1907. THE Union of the Methodist sections represented by the U.M. Free Churches, Bible Christians, New Connexion Churches, was consummated in the historic Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London, in the presence of six hundred ministerial and lay representatives. It was a great day, a far-reaching event in the story of Methodism..

pp. 24, Eayrs' Hist. U.M. Church.

The United Methodist Church. THE three sections previously named, had together an enrolled membership of 200,000. In union, they became the United Methodist Church, and the Bishopston U.M. Free Church lost a designation it had known for fifty years, in the willing acceptance of another of already increasing honour throughout the world.

There still remains much more recordable, concerning Anniversaries, Harvest Festivals, Thanksgiving Days, Prayer and Class Meetings, Sacrament and Covenant Services; concerning visits of men of Connexional fame and honour, Band of Hope, Sales of Work, Socials, Rambles, which must be omitted now, but two "Peeps into the Past" present themselves as complemental and terminative of this very remarkable period, if not unexcelled ministry at Bishopston. One portrays the activities of the Rev. C. Pye outside Bishopston. In the other appears, framed and expressive in tangible form, the affection and esteem of the people for their beloved pastor and his wife.

The activities of the Rev. Charles Pye extended to every part, and beyond the city of Bristol. He shared in the work of the Bristol and Kingswood U.M. Council and became its President in 1910. His counsel was sought in the arrangements of various Evangelistic Missions, Dr. Torrey's and others. He officially served on the Committee of the Bristol and Clifton Convention. The Bristol and South Wales U.M. Churches conferred prominence upon him; as Chairman of the District, he visited many Churches of the neighbouring Counties. A share of the pastor's honour fell upon Bishopston inasmuch as the District Meetings of May, 1912, were held there, when 200 delegates voiced all arrangements "par excellence," and elected the Rev. C. Pye and Mr. Jas. Bowland as representatives to Conference at Hanley. By Conference also, upon the Rev. C. Pye has been bestowed exalted positions of connexional honour.

The affection and esteem of the people for the Rev. C. Pye and Mrs. Pye has been shown on many occasions. Early in his ministry a roll-top desk was presented as a small token of regard, at the same time Mrs. Pye received a beautiful Worcester Tea Service. The reception remains memorable.

On the occasion of their Silver Wedding, another expression of affection (with a silver printed address referring to the happy event), was joyfully given unto them, in the form of solid silver Muffineers.

During the severe illness of the Rev. C. Pye, 1912, to the Church a time of great anxiety and earnest supplication, affection deepened increasingly and found expressions on his recovery in loving, sympathetic and generous ways.

At the farewell, there were many visible signs of sorrow. The pastor essayed to cheer, and spoke of the hope of still better times in store for the Bishopston Church, a Church and people he and Mrs. Pye would ever regard in affectionate remembrance, they deeply felt the severance from so many loving and faithful friends. A purse of gold and a clock was presented from the Church and congregation, a case of fish-servers from Mrs. Pye's Bible Class, and from the departments in which they laboured, a presentation to each daughter.

Among Methodists, **a ministry of eleven years duration,** is an exception ; one could wish there were more such as this, which bears ample witness to the promotion of the true, the abiding welfare of the Church, which manifests the united purpose of minister and people, in the uplifting of every adjunct of the Church, so as to prevail in the extension of the kingdom of God. In a measure, perhaps unequalled at Bishopston, this period testifies also to the loving service and sacrifice of the congregation, who in loyal fellowship successfully upheld the Pastor, the Leaders, and Trustees in every direction of aggressive, religious enterprise. Indeed, so much is known that can neither be estimated or recorded, it becomes well nigh impossible to fully appraise the devoted services, or to record the social, moral, spiritual influence of the gracious ministry of the Rev. Charles Pye at Bishopston. Happily, however, there is abundant evidence, gratifying and inspiring to peruse, of progress and achievements during this long eventful period in which, through His servant, " the Lord hath done great things."

SECTION X. 1914-1915.

REV. G. H. KENNEDY.

REV. G. H. KENNEDY.

AMONG the first names mentioned, was that of the Rev. G. H. Kennedy, who, having entered the ministry in 1892, had done good work for the Master in Blackburn, Southport, Denton, Liverpool, and was appreciated by the South Shore Church, Blackpool. A cordial and unanimous invitation was sent to him, and eventually he accepted the pastorate of Bishopston. He is more than fulfilling anticipations, having won the esteem and confidence of the people by welcomed pastoral visitation.

Naturally of a bright, cheery disposition, the young people find him attractive, his Sunday morning address to the children being greatly appreciated. Though an ideal "children's man" his services are by no means thus confined, the people are responsive to his ready sympathy, and find in his sermons a most helpful ministry. So far the prophetic words of a previous pastor, "there are still better times in store for Bishopston Church" are being fulfilled.

As in the days of 1854, the claims of the wounded in this calamitous war, 1915, have through the Red Cross Society been liberally responded to. A family of Belgian Refugees has been provided with a Home. In every department of the Church good work continues, and the change of ministry has not been followed by any removals of the congregation. We rejoice in sustained efficiency, and are grateful to our Heavenly Father for sending the Rev. G. H. and Mrs. Kennedy to Bishopston.

SECTION XI.

CHRONICLES OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL — SCHOLARS, TEACHERS, SUPERINTENDENTS, 1846—1915—AND A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE DAY SCHOOL, FROM ITS OPENING 1868— TO ITS TRANSFER 1898.

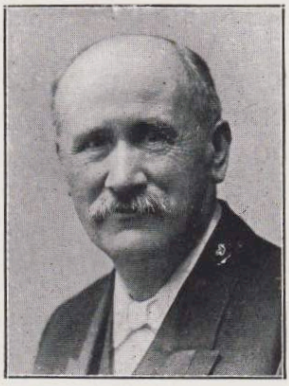
The first Sunday School Superintendent, as may be imagined, had no difficulty in the arrangement of Classes, nor was there any lack of accommodation for the scholars in 1846, at Mount Zion, Horfield. The Chapel, spacious enough for 120 persons, was ample for the few children of the village, who first gathered together for instruction in religious knowledge, under the care of a godly man of years, Mr. S. Mountain, a local resident. It was a very small beginning, the spring of a brook destined to flow onward increasing in volume and blessedness. At this time, there was no other Sunday School from King Street, Bristol, to Horfield Common, nor until Arley opened in 1855, and S. Michael's in 1858.

Mount Zion Sunday School increased in numbers and was thought of sufficient importance to be invited in 1854, by the Reform Committee " to assemble at Broadmead on Whit Monday, and there augment the procession of Sunday School children." With an unbroken loyalty there remains only one member of Berkeley Road Church who, as a child, remembers the gladness of that day, its song, its banners, and its cheer.

The introduction of the second superintendent, Mr. John Clatworthy, from Hebron, Bedminster, is remembered by several well-known local residents, who testify to the excellence of his Christian character, to the rich abiding influence of his holy life. Associated with him, two young men, Wm. C. Oatway, James W. Padfield, commenced their religious life and labours, together they

raised the funds and purchased the first harmonium at Mount Zion. Being musical, one played the instrument, and the other conducted the Choir. To-day the Rev. James W. Padfield adorns the Baptist Ministry, and Mr. Wm. C. Oatway is highly esteemed and honoured as the Secretary of the Bristol Sunday School Union.

MR. WM. C. OATWAY.



REV. JAMES W. PADFIELD.

An amusing incident has been related from the time of the prospective new building. The superintendent urged the scholars to bring a penny each, and thus have a brick of their own in the new Chapel. Several boys, on the following Sunday, in a literal sense did so, by bringing and depositing a new red brick at the base of the pulpit, much to the amusement of every witness. History is silent concerning those boys, but £4 : 10 : represented the Sunday School subscription. At the stone-laying, the scholars all walked down the hill to witness the ceremony, and received a bun each. Doubtless some further regaled at the tea-party held on that happy day.

1867. THE Sunday School continued to assemble in Berkeley Road Chapel, until its transfer to the commodious school-room built this year. There it increased its share in the moral enlightening and religious training of the young people, in a praiseworthy degree and manner that cannot be revealed by records until that great Day, the opening of the " Lamb's Book of Life."

1874. THE Class-room erected for the day-school, gave to the

Infants' Class, under the care of Mrs. Walton, an improved accommodation.

1877. CONSEQUENT upon the enlarged Chapel and increased congregations, there was a remarkable addition of Sunday School scholars.

1881. THE Rev. William Griffith, of Derby, preached the Sunday School Anniversary sermons, and became concerned, if not unduly disturbed, by the vigorous marching tunes sung then. He said " the military spirit inculcated by such, had no place in the songs of Zion," at the same time paid compliment to the musical efficiency of the children.

1882. A QUAINT item here, the superintendent of the Sunday School requested " that three pews be reserved for the scholars at a yearly rental of £3"—" try it for a time," was rather scanty encouragement. Times are changed, a welcome awaits children in all Churches now.

1884. THE Class-room known as the Church parlour, added a further accommodation to the advantage of infant scholars.

1890. A TEACHERS' Preparation Class was started by the Rev. S. Gibson who was endeared to teachers and scholars alike. His untimely death was felt acutely. As a token of esteem an oak reading-stand was obtained to be solely used in the Sunday School as a lasting remembrance of him, it bears an engraved brass tablet, which reads, " In remembrance of the late Samuel Gibson, subscribed for by the scholars and friends of the Bishopston Free Methodist Sunday School, 1892."

1894. THE Preparation Class and the Sunday School Sewing Class were continued under the Rev. W. C. Hope. Mr. F. G. Gee, an energetic Sunday School Officer made it opportune to express to Mr. E. Casling the gratitude of teachers and scholars in the form of a conductor's baton presented to him.

1899-1902. DURING the pastorate of the Rev. Jabez Percival,

the Sunday School attained an eminence which it has well kept in the direction of assistance to the Church. (The sum raised for the New Organ is stated elsewhere). It also increased numerically, so much so, that at this time the need of more accommodation became an acute anxiety, happily relieved in 1911 by the new buildings.

1914. SUNDAY Evening Services for children had been, for a few years past, held in the school room, under the joint supervision of Mr. C. Vallis and Mrs. W. Matthews. In August, 1914, the attendance failed to warrant their continuance.

S.S. Anniversary. May, 1915. THIS Anniversary may be said to have exceeded all others in attendance, in appropriateness of addresses, recitations, singing, and collections. It was, in every way, a memorable children's day of rejoicing and thanksgiving. At the evening meeting on Tuesday, the scholars and teachers presented a luxurious Arm Chair to Mr. E. Casling, who bears a most worthy record of service, he has taught and conducted the singing at our Sunday School Anniversaries for 37 years consecutively, and has won the esteem of many friends. It came as a surprise to Mr. Casling, who feelingly responded.

Extracts from Sunday School Anniversary Report.

"We have started a Primary Department which has been a great success, it is replete with infant Chairs, Pictures, etc., and hopes are entertained that eventually our whole school will be graded. We have also a Cradle Roll."

"We have started a Young Worshippers' League. Its meetings are well attended, 60 of our young people are members. Our Junior C. Endeavour has again won the shield offered by the North Bristol C. E. Union. This being the Third year in succession, it becomes theirs to retain; we are justly proud of them."

"The number of children and teachers on the books is 232, and the average attendance for the past year is 154, which compares favourably with preceding years."

Of Teachers and Scholars much could be written. Mr. Edwin Clark, among the elder boys, laboured with untiring devotion. Esther Somers, a scholar, a teacher, became the wife of the Rev. Thomas Wakefield,* accompanied and shared in Missionary labours on the East Coast of Africa. Miss Harrison, a teacher for 25 years.

MRS. CLATWORTHY.

MRS. T. WAKEFIELD.

The esteemed Miss Curnock and Miss Carey of grateful memory. Miss Smith a teacher since 1890. To Miss Mary Higman, now Mrs. Clatworthy, belongs the honour of being longest associated with the Sunday School as a scholar and teacher. The loyal and faithful Miss Nobbs is remembered in affection, and many others are worthy of fuller notice if space did but allow.

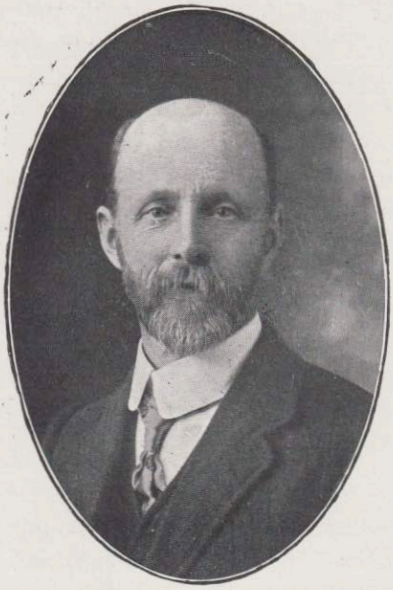
Berkeley Road Sunday School Scholars who forget not associations of days gone by, are to be found in Australia, Central America, Canada, S. Africa, and it is pleasing to acknowledge from these different parts of the world, contributions received in aid of their old Sunday School.

Some also are on the Continent doing duty for King and Country in the present War.

Of Superintendents, J. Clatworthy, J. Smith, C. F. Sturgess, H. Liminton have entered into their reward. Mr. W. H. Pingstone resides near, Mr. A. Dowling serves a sister Church.

* The Life of Thomas Wakefield, Missionary, Traveller, Pioneer, may be purchased from U.M. Publishing House.

In the year 1893, Mr. J. H. V. Connett entered the school as a Teacher, the following year he became its Secretary, and in 1895 was unanimously elected as superintendent, which position, with the exception of a few months of enforced absence, during which Mr. Dack officiated, he has retained with honour. This period of 20 years' faithful service has been rich in blessing to hundreds of children under his loving care. Through difficulties and disappointments, Mr. J. H. V. Connett has encouraged and sustained a loyal band of Teachers working for the Master in good fellowship and harmony.



MR. J. H. V. CONNETT.

May the blessing of God rest upon him, granting health, wisdom, and grace, that he may for many years to come continue in the labour he loves.

THE DAY SCHOOL.

The day school was opened on 20th July, 1868, under the mastership of Mr. John Walton, who had had a distinguished career at Borough Road College, and had previously conducted two schools; one at Wigston, Leicestershire, and the other at Tyne Dock. He was not only an excellent school-master, most highly esteemed by his contemporaries in the Bristol Schools, but took a part in local government as Clerk to the Horfield Local Board. He laid the foundation of the School on sure lines. His Time-table, at least in form, was continued until the School was finally transferred, more than thirty years after its opening. His untimely death on 7th July, 1873, was deeply deplored.

He was followed in the mastership by Mr. Henry Gay who held the position until August, 1875. For the remainder of the year

the School was conducted by Mr. E. Veater, and at Christmas Mr. J. E. Smith, who had been Mr. Walton's pupilteacher, and who had just left Borough Road College, accepted the Committee's invitation to take control. He continued in charge until the school was transferred to the management of the Bristol School Board, and removed to more up-to-date premises at Ashley Down, the master and members of the school staff going with the boys.

The school managers were chosen at the commencement from the subscribers, and all were connected with the United Methodist Free Churches. This remained so for six years, when, there being a difficulty in getting enough subscriptions, the Congregational Church at Arley was invited to help in monetary support and management. The invitation was accepted, Arley provided £25 per annum, and the managers were appointed, six by Arley Church, six by Horfield U.M.F. Church, and three co-opted members.

The name of the school was changed from the Methodist Free Church to British. The arrangement continued for about five years and finally ended in 1879. The aid of Arley was most helpful at a critical time, and no doubt prevented the closing of the school. The managers for the remaining nineteen years were a continuation of the 1879 members, without any Arley friends, and vacancies were filled, from time to time, by co-option, though due regard was paid to representation of the U.M.F. Church.

Of Officers, Mr. F. F. Cotterell was permanent Chairman from 1882 to 1889, and Mr. W. D. Watts from 1891 to 1898. Mr. Jos. Hatton was Treasurer for the first year, and Mr. John Smith from 1869 to 1874. Mr. John Clatworthy was Secretary from 1868 to 1874. Mr. W. C. Oatway from 1874 to 1876. Mr. C. J. Keeton from 1876 to 1877. Mr. Chas. E. Holt from 1877 to 1878, and Mr. W. H. Pingstone from 1878 to 1898.

The premises were enlarged by building a small Class-room in 1874, and a larger one ten years later in 1884. During the thirty years of the existence of the school, there is no doubt that it well met the requirements of the district, many of the scholars, especially in the earlier years, going straight from the school into their life-work. In later years many of the boys gained Peloquin Scholarships, enabling them to proceed to the Bristol Grammar School, while others were awarded Junior Scholarships by the Gloucester County

Council, when Bishopston was in the County, and by Bristol City Council after its absorption. By means of these Scholarships several boys were able to acquire others, leading on to Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Quite a large proportion of Scholarships offered, fell to boys of this school. Old scholars are to be found in all parts of the world, and they are in the ranks of the Anglican Clergy, the Free Church Ministry, the Scholastic profession, honourable positions in many mercantile houses in various parts of the Country. One at least, of the old scholars, is a City Councillor, and another a member of the Common's House of Parliament

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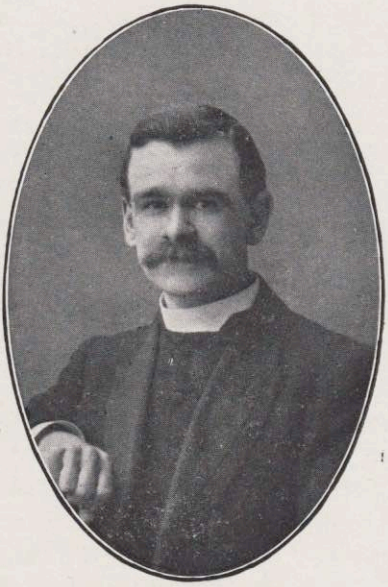
ROLL OF HONOUR.

Andrews, Charles	4th Glo'ster Territorials.
Blight, Edgar	Torpedo Destroyer 'Griffon'
Clark, Bruce	4th Glo'ster Territorials.
Clark, Ralph G.	Royal Field Artillery.
Clarke, Colin	Somerset Light Infantry.
Clarke, Harry	6th Glo'ster Territorials.
Griffiths. Jack	,, ,,
Higman, Guy H.	,, ,,
Pitt, Douglas	,, ,,
Pitt, Sidney	,, ,,
Raggatt, Richard	Somerset Light Infantry.
Slade, Alfred	R.A.M.C.
Simmonds, Willie	4th Glo'ster Territorials.
Taylor, George	12th Glo'ster Territorials.
Taylor, Robert L.	R.G.A.
Taylor, Gilbert	H.M.S. 'Roxburgh.'
Vallis, William	6th Glo'ster Territorials.
Yeoman, Leslie	,, ,,

Old Boys of the British School.



REV. SIDNEY NEATH.

MR. F. KELLAWAY.
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR BEDFORD.

SECTION XII.

EPILOGUE—FIFTY YEARS AGO—COMPLETE LIST OF MINISTERS.

EPILOGUE.

WHATEVER of importance and interest connected with our Church during a period of seventy years, save one, has now herein been set forth, the unveiled purpose of its relation has yet to be attained. Only to *read* of sacrifice and prosperity, only to know *mentally* of the benign influence of holy lives and fruitful labours, is indeed but little, "to do likewise," "to adorn the doctrine," is the honour and privilege of Divine command. Peeps into the Past of our Church, while they recall to the older members sacred associations, do they not invite the younger to be justly proud of the traditions, which they have the responsibility of maintaining? The honour *is* ours of upholding according to our day and generation, and enriching it may be, our goodly heritage, in the Name of the Lord.

To-day is not the same as yesterday, to-morrow will be different from to-day. New times bring new trials, and also new possibilities of triumph of greater glory than in days gone. To-day a new era opens, we enter strengthened and encouraged by our reading this story of Local Methodism, showing as it does our Church-life healthier probably than ever before, our financial condition better now than it has ever been. The outlook is full of hope. More blessed still, the message of a Saviour's love remains the same, and the God of our fathers our GOD IS WITH US.

MR. JAMES BOWLAND,

With the exception of one year as President of the Council—has served the Bristol and Kingswood United Methodist Council as Secretary since 1907—Delegate to Conferences, Hanley and Redruth.

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

WITHIN living memory Bishopston and its locality was very much unlike what is to-day. Some idea of the change may be gathered from a morning walk taken in imagination with the pioneers of local Methodism, Henry Curnock and John Clatworthy.

Near Zetland Road stands the turn-pike gate, checking the passage of all vehicles, on their way to or from the city of Bristol until the lawful toll has been duly paid. It appears a dividing line between town and country.

Proceeding, on the left hand side, a number of newly erected residences are passed. On the right a pleasing view presents itself, of open fields of rising ground. At the foot thereof runs a quick clear stream. Along its banks withy beds far extend, osiers growing whose long green tapering pennants make music in the breeze, harmonious with the waters flowing by.

A little further on the right, at the bend of the road, a limekiln attracts attention. On the other side high above the road and near by are cottages in the midst of orchard ground.

Again on the right also there are more cottages with gardens bordering the high-way, and extending as far as the Wagon and Horses at the entrance of Bolton Lane. Among them are modest shops a baker's, a grocer's, and a butcher's Near the former is an open flagged-patch of ground. Its centre is defined by the village pump.

On the left hand side in prominence stands the Horfield Inn with its stone drinking-trough for horses, an unpretentious yet somewhat picturesque red tile roofed hostel, having Tea Gardens adjoining and other grounds occasionly occupied by touring shows. The Assembly Rooms for Public Meetings, Concerts, must also be noticed above the Inn stables.

Nearly opposite the entrance of the Methodist Chapel now building, a well of spring water fenced on three sides with wooden palings is said to share the honour of supply with the pump already referred to.

In Berkeley and Egerton newly-planned roads very few residences appear, but the builder is busy, and a conspicious notice board invites the purchase of plots on easy terms. Continuing on the left here and there are cottages, as far as the Horfield Pleasure Grounds. We enter not to refresh and pay, but travel on, passing Edmond's Trust School, erected 1860, and Victoria Place, from thence along the hedged lined road in rural solitude as far as Horfield Common with its grey and venerable Church.

On the high road returning from the Common, the view of undulating fields, rising to the heights of Purdown is arrestive and pleasing, uninterrupted by buildings until an obvious swinging picture reminds the passer-by of himself as well as the escape of an illustrious royal king. Onward amid garden ground there appears an indiscriminate scattering of tenements, relieved by a neat little building of pleasing appearance, with a freestone front, to which a gate in the low stone wall on the road side gives entrance, It is Mount Zion Chapel, hallowed in memory and soon to be with many regrets forsaken. On descending the hill colloquially known as Pig Stye Hill, midway there stands a pretty church. "It was erected," said Henry, "seven years ago." The lane by the south side of it leads through Russell's Fields to the Volunteer Grounds and Ashley Down. On the left side also we notice two other openings much the same as it is to-day, but Sommerville Road was not. A shop is passed and we immediately arrive at Bolton Lane. It leads into open fields where the brook may be crossed on a flag-stone, here the choice of two well trodden footpaths is proffered if still desirous of continuing our country ramble. The path on the right follows the brook past the withy beds (best located now at the back of Mr. A. H. N. Middleton's shop), and at Cutlers' Mills (near the site of the Colston Girls' School), enters the main road to the city. "The other," said John, with a smile, "leads over the hills to Stapleton and far away"—

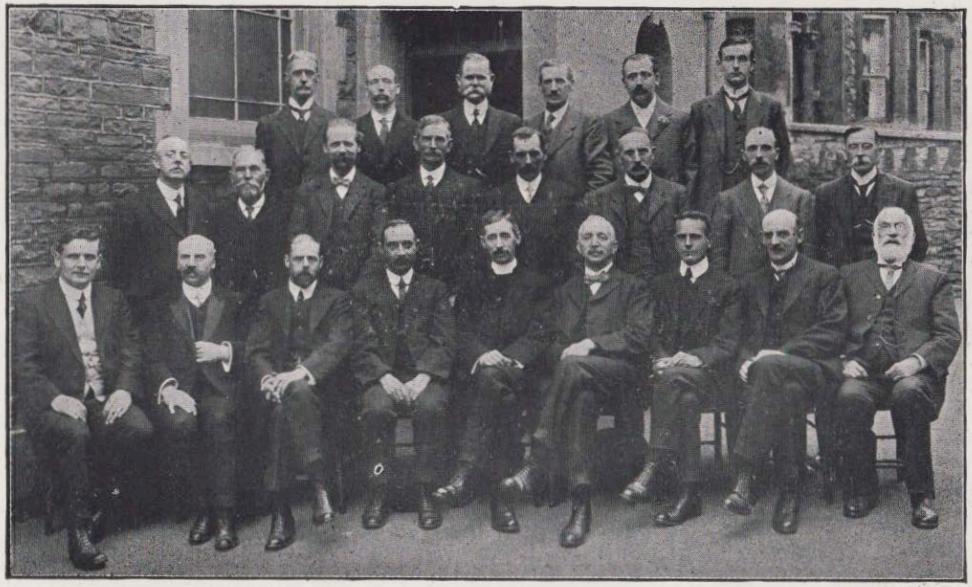
First row.

J. Wood. W. Needs. J. Neath. C. W. Bamber. H. J. Jefferson. A. G. Barker.

Read left to right

Second row.

J. Bowland.
S. Witchell.
C. Vallis.
J. Plummer.
W. Matthews.
G. Beacham.
F. Hall.
A. Rawlings.



Read right to left

Third row.

R. Burden.
A. R. Worner.
J. B. Everingham.
R. B. Sleeman.
REV. G. H. KENNEDY.
H. J. Rider.
A. H. N. Middleton.
A. Stedeford.
A. Barker.

PASTOR AND LEADERS, BISHOPSTON U.M. CHURCH, 1915.

Names of Ministers recorded as having been present at Church or Trustee Meetings, held at Horfield or Bishopston.

Mount Zion HORFIELD Chapel.

1846 ... ...

Reform Church

1854 Rev. T. ROWLANDS ,,

U.M. Free Church

1857 ,, J. GARSIDE ,,
1858 ,, G. HUDSON ,,
1859 ,, W. REED ,,

U.M. Free Church

1860 Rev. T. HACKING ,,
1861 ,, G. N. G. FAULL ,,
1862 ,, T. M. BOOTH ,,
1863 ,, C. R. RAMSHAW ,,
1864 ,, J. GARSIDE ,,

Bishopston United Methodist Free Church.

1865 Rev. J. GARSIDE
1866 ,, W. BOYDEN
,, J. S. WITHINGTON
1867 ,, W. BOYDEN, T. CASLEY
1868 ,, J. C. BREWITT
,, J. KENDALL
1869 ,, W. R. BROWN
1870 ,, W. R. BROWN
,, J. SLACK
1871 ,, W. R. BROWN
1872 ,, R. GRAY
1873 ,, R. GRAY, H. M. BOOTH
1874 ,, G. WARNE
1875 ,, G. WARNE
,, T. HAMMOND
1876 Rev. G. WARNE
,, T. HAMMOND
1877 Rev. E. CRAINE*
,, T. HAMMOND
1878 ,, E. CRAINE
1879 ,, W. LOCKE SMITH
,, W. M. HUNTER
1880 ,, W. LOCKE SMITH
,, W. M. HUNTER
1881 ,, W. LOCKE SMITH
,, W. M. HUNTER
1882 ,, G. THOMPSON
1883 ,, S. POAD
,, J. C. BREWITT
1884 ,, S. POAD
,, J. C. BREWITT
1885 ,, S. POAD
,, J. C. BREWITT

Bishopston as a Section of the North Circuit, with five village Churches.

1886-7-8 Rev. W. TOPPIN
1888-9-90 Rev. J. T. HODGE

Bishopston again a Church of the North Circuit.

1890-1-2 Rev. S. GIBSON
1892-3-4 Rev. W. C. HOPE

Bishopston as a Church and Circuit.

1894-5-6, 1897-8-9 Rev. J. JONES. *5 years*
1899-1900-1-2 Rev. J. PERCIVAL *3 years*
1902-3 Rev. E. J. TRAVIS
1903-4-5-6-7 Rev. CHARLES PYE

The United Methodist Church

1908-1914 Rev. CHARLES PYE *11 years*
1914-15 Rev. G. H. KENNEDY

*A connexional minister has resided in Bishopston from this date.